Pismo Huckfest Special Event
Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

Initial Study/
Negative Declaration

August 2014

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation,
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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Negative Declaration

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Prepared for:

State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Pismo Huckfest Special Event

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division

Availability of Documents: The Initial Study for this Negative Declaration is available for review at:

- Oceano Dunes District Office
  340 James Way, Ste. 270
  Pismo Beach, CA 93449
  (805) 773-7170
  Contact – Dena Bellman

- CDPR, OHMVR Division
  1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
  Sacramento, CA 95816
  (916) 445-9152
  Contact – Ryan Miller

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The OHMVR Division is evaluating the potential environmental effects of permitting the Pismo Huckfest Special Event proposed to be held at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

Event sponsors applied for a Special Event Permit to hold Huckfest at Oceano Dunes SVRA on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18, 2014. Event gates would open to the public at 6 a.m. on Friday. Friday and Saturday events end with a concert which closes at 10:30 p.m. The main Huckfest event would occur on Saturday. The event comprises an exhibition of street legal and off-highway registered trucks jumping off a gradual incline sand dune ramp with a flat landing area. This activity is similar to spontaneous vehicle riding presently occurring at Oceano Dunes SVRA.

The main event would occur at the Competition Hill area of Oceano Dunes SVRA 0.5 miles east of Posts 7 and 8, between Sand Highway 21 – 24. Up to 25 vehicles may participate in the exhibition with each vehicle taking two practice jumps and three measured jumps with the longest of the three jumps scored. Event participation is by invitation only. Participant vehicles would go through a technical inspection by designated qualified event staff. The course would consist of a fenced off area that has a lead-in runway, the sand dune, and a landing platform and pathway. The event staff, drivers, and monitors would all have radio communications for the go/no go signal to proceed, as well as a red/green light at the top of the dune for a visual signal of go/no go. Spectators would be kept a minimum of 200 feet from either side of the center of the course by temporary fencing.

The base camp area would be located south of Post 4 and comprise an event stage, vendor area, restrooms, vendor parking and camping areas, and a vehicle technical inspection area. The event also includes a motorcycle exhibition by three X-Game performers. The motorcycle exhibition would occur between Posts 4 and 5. The course consists of a 75-foot long jump using 8.5-foot high take off and landing ramps. A 35-foot run of carpet would be laid on top of the

sand leading to and from both ramps. The overall course dimensions are 100-feet wide and 327-feet long. The course perimeter would be surrounded with snow fencing 25 feet from the take off carpet and 100 feet from the landing carpet.

All participants would be paid camping or day use visitors, and all vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors. All speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA would apply to event participants. All pre-existing Oceano Dunes SVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event.

All event activities would be held in areas of the park that are normally open to motorized recreation and would not create effects beyond the areas open to motor vehicles and other recreation.

PROPOSED FINDING

The OHMVR Division has reviewed the Initial Study and determined there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. No changes to the project plans or mitigation measures are required. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064(f)(3) and 15070(a), a Negative Declaration has been prepared for consideration as the appropriate CEQA document for the project.

BASIS OF FINDING

Based on the environmental evaluation presented in the attached Initial Study, the project would not cause significant adverse effects related to aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/service systems. In addition, substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirect, would not occur. The project does not affect any important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history. Nor will the project substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS AND CUSTODIAN OF DOCUMENTS

The record, upon which all findings and determinations related to the approval of the Project are based, includes the following:

1. The Negative Declaration and all documents referenced in or relied upon by the Negative Declaration.
2. All information (including written evidence and testimony) provided by OHMVR Division staff to the decision maker(s) relating to the Negative Declaration, the approvals, and the Project.
3. All information (including written evidence and testimony) presented to the OHMVR Division by the environmental consultant who prepared the Negative Declaration or incorporated into reports presented to the OHMVR Division.

4. All information (including written evidence and testimony) presented to the OHMVR Division from other public agencies and members of the public related to the Project or the Negative Declaration.
5. All applications, letters, testimony, and presentations relating to the Project.
6. All other documents composing the record pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167.6(e).

The OHMVR Division is the custodian of the documents and other materials that constitute the record of the proceedings upon which the OHMVR Division's decisions are based. The contact for this material is:

Ms. Dena Bellman
Oceano Dunes District Office
340 James Way, Suite 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(805) 773-7170

Pursuant to section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the OHMVR Division has independently reviewed and analyzed the IS/ND for the proposed project and finds these documents reflect the independent judgment of the OHMVR Division.

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Oceano Dunes SVRA
Pismo Huckfest Special Event Initial Study

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Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This Initial Study has been prepared by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). This Initial Study evaluates the potential environmental effects of permitting the Pismo Huckfest Special Event, proposed for October 17 and October 18, 2014. The Huckfest comprises an exhibition of trucks jumping off a sand dune within the open riding and camping area of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15000 et seq.) establish the OHMVR Division as the lead agency. The lead agency is defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15367 as "the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project." The lead agency decides whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration is required for the project and is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental review document.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a public agency shall prepare a proposed Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration when:

1. The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or

2. The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects, but:

   – Revisions in the project plans made before a proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and

   – There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

Pursuant to Section 15070, the OHMVR Division has determined a Negative Declaration is the appropriate environmental review document for the Pismo Huckfest Special Event.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

The lead agency for the proposed project is the OHMVR Division, the agency that would be approving the permit. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Dena Bellman
Oceano Dunes District Office
340 James Way, Ste. 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(805) 773-7170

1.3 DOCUMENT PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of Huckfest proposed to be held at Oceano Dunes SVRA October 17-18, 2014.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction

  This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

- Chapter 2 – Project Description

  This chapter describes the project location, area, site, objectives, and characteristics.

- Chapter 3 – Environmental Checklist and Responses

  This chapter contains the Environmental Checklist that identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project. This chapter also contains the Mandatory Findings of Significance.

- Chapter 4 – References

  This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this document.

- Chapter 5 – Report Preparation

  This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

1.4 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The following permits or approvals are required for this project:

- CDPR Special Event Permit
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Encroachment Permit

Chapter 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The OHMVR Division proposes to issue a Special Event Permit for the Huckfest at Oceano Dunes SVRA in the community of Oceano, San Luis Obispo County, California.

Oceano Dunes SVRA is located in the community of Oceano, off State Route 1 (Figure 1). The SVRA, along with the access afforded via Pismo State Beach, contains 5½ miles of beach open for vehicle use. The beach and approximately 1,500 acres of sand dunes available for off-highway motor vehicle (OHV) recreation are attractions for visitors from throughout the United States. Oceano Dunes SVRA is the only California State Park where vehicles may be driven on the beach. Passenger cars can easily drive on the northern portion of the beach, while the central portion of the SVRA can be accessed with four-wheel drive vehicles and is where OHVs and camping are allowed. The southern portion of the park, which includes Oso Flaco Lake, is closed to vehicles.

Vehicle access to Oceano Dunes SVRA is available from Grand Avenue in Grover Beach and Pier Avenue in Oceano. The Huckfest base camp activities would occur near Posts 4 and 5, and the Huckfest truck exhibition event would occur along the Sand Highway east of Post 7 (Figure 2).

2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project is to allow the Huckfest event to occur on October 17 and October 18, 2014, at Oceano Dunes SVRA. This form of vehicle recreation occurs informally at Oceano Dunes SVRA throughout the year. The purpose of permitting the event is to formalize the event to create a safe environment for participants and spectators and ensure adequate environmental review.

2.3 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

2.3.1 Beach Access

The organizers of Huckfest have applied for a Special Event Permit at Oceano Dunes SVRA. Day use and camping tickets for Pismo State Beach and the SVRA will be available by Special Event pre-sale. All event tickets must be pre-purchased through the event sponsor. If the event is not sold out in advance, same day tickets may be purchased online or outside of the park at an information booth set up at the Grand Avenue dirt parking lot. The Reserve America reservation system, which normally handles camping reservations for CDPR, will not sell tickets for Pismo State Beach/ODSVRA access for October 15 through 19, 2014. There would be no event gate sales at kiosk entry points (Grand Avenue and Pier Avenue) to access the SVRA.

Only special event ticket holders would be allowed to drive south of Post 2 on Friday and Saturday, October 17-18, 2014. Day use and vehicle access to Pismo State Beach north of Post 2 would continue to be available to the public without a special event ticket. Event access and traffic controls are discussed in Section 2.3.6 below.

As identified in Section 2.3.5, park limits on visitor use levels would remain in effect. Of the 2,580 allowable day use passes, 380 passes have been reserved for non-event or regular use. These tickets would allow beach access north of Post 2 without an event ticket. The Pier

Avenue and Grand Avenue beach entrances would be open for sale of non-event beach access during normal kiosk operating hours.

Pedestrian and equestrian access to the beach would remain open and unchanged by the special event. The dirt parking lot at Grand Avenue accommodates 400 vehicles. This lot would be available for parking and managed by event volunteers. There would be no restrictions on walk-in visitors.

2.3.2 Event Activities

The event gates would open to the public at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, October 17, 2014. Proposed vehicle events would take place on Saturday, October 18, 2014, starting at 10 a.m. and ending by 3:00 p.m. Live music and an award ceremony would occur at the base camp area from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. A beach clean-up would occur on Sunday.

The Stage 1 Event consists of an exhibition of up to 25 technically-certified pickup trucks driving up and jumping over the top of a sand dune. Only those competitors invited by the event sponsor would be cleared to participate in the exhibition event. This type of vehicle activity emulates the spontaneous exhibitions that occur commonly throughout the park. The proposed event would occur near Competition Hill, between Sand Highway 21 – 24, 0.5 miles east of Posts 7 and 8 (Figure 2). The exhibition arena includes a naturally occurring sand runway, dune ramp, and landing zone (Figure 3).

Each competitor is given two opportunities to practice, then three official jumps with the longest jump recorded for the scoreboard. Three classes of vehicles would compete: Limited, Unlimited, and Open Wheel. Any damaged vehicles would be towed to a designated area safely away from the exhibition.

A monster truck exhibition would occur during the event intermission from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. and also for ten minutes during vehicle breakdowns while a towing crew clears the vehicle.

The Stage 2 Event consists of a motorcycle exhibition by three X-Game performers (Metal Mulisha). A 35-foot run of carpet would be laid down on top of the sand leading to a ramp that is 5-feet wide, 12-foot long and 8.5-feet tall; the jump length is 75-feet. The motorcycles would land on a ramp which is 10-feet wide, 45-feet long and 8-feet tall. The jump ramps are constructed on 5th wheel trailers, and would be transported on and off the beach as a trailer attached to a truck. The overall course dimensions are 100-feet wide by 327-feet long. The motorcycle exhibition would occur south of Post 4 adjacent to the base camp (Figure 2 and Figure 4).

An event base camp near Posts 4 and 5 would be established providing space for vendors, a technical inspection area, designated event staff and vendor parking and camping areas, restrooms, and an event stage (Figure 4). Most vendors would be related to OHV recreation. CDPR would require appropriate licensing, permits, and insurance from any food vendor/caterer operating at the event.

2.3.3 Safety Measures

Prior to the truck exhibition start time, the participant vehicles would go through a technical inspection by designated qualified event staff. The technical inspection requirements are listed in Appendix A. The course would consist of a fenced off area that has a lead in runway, the sand dune, and a landing platform and pathway (Figure 2). The event staff, drivers, and

monitors would all have radio communications for the go/no go signal to proceed, as well as a red/green light at the top of the dune for a visual signal of go/no go.

Spectators at the truck exhibition would be kept a minimum of 200 feet from either side of the center of the event course by temporary fencing. A minimum of 50 feet would be kept between the designated spectator area and vegetated islands within the dunes which may contain wildlife. Spectators at the motorcycle exhibition would be kept back a minimum of 25 feet from the take off carpet and 100 feet from the landing carpet.

All vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors. All speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA would apply to event participants. All routine and emergency protocols would remain in place during the event.

Vehicle towing services would be provided onsite at two locations: one near Competition Hill during the exhibition event and one north of Post 2 near the event entrance.

The event organizers have contracted with CalStar to provide an emergency medical evacuation helicopter onsite. The helicopter would be located on the south side of the entrance to Sand Highway in the fenced off area referred to as the search and rescue (SAR) base (Figure 4). An ambulance would be stationed at the vendor staging area. The same ambulance would be stationed at the event arena during the exhibition.

2.3.4 Event Set-up Activities

- **Monday**
  - Review of event site locations
  - Fence off base camp location
  - Set up staff campers/office
  - Set up tech inspection area
- **Tuesday**
  - Inspect event site
  - Set up vendor/sponsor row
  - Delivery of firewood; four cords
  - Delivery of PODS storage units; up to four at event base camp
- **Wednesday**
  - Start and finish contouring of arena “competition hill”
  - Start vendor/sponsor/competitor move in (throughout Friday)
  - Entrance at Post 2 on beach set up for ticket verification
  - Delivery of an office trailer to base camp
- **Thursday**
  - Testing with trucks and measurements of distance to ensure the safety of media, staff, drivers, and spectators
  - Early registration and technical inspection in the evening
  - Event staff safety meeting and final planning during event, dinner at base camp for staff and supporters
- **Friday**
  - Event gates open (beach opens to the public at 6 a.m.)
  - 24/7 staffing at Post 2 (ticket collectors)

- Competitor briefing and technical inspection starts 8 a.m. at base camp
- The event arena secured 24/7 Friday – Saturday of event
- Mandatory media meeting held at staff trailer 8 p.m.
- End tech inspection at 10:30 p.m.

2.3.5 Visitor Use Levels

Huckfest Event Attendance

All participants and spectators at the event would be paid camping or day use visitors. The event sponsors would sell all event tickets, including up to 2,200 of the 2,580 total day use passes allowed at the SVRA (see discussion below). CDPR would retain 380 day use passes for park visitors to access Pismo State Beach north of Post 2. Event sponsors could sell up to 800 of the 1,000 park camping permits. 100 camping permits would be reserved for event staff, and the remaining 100 camping permits would be unavailable and left as a buffer.

CDPR anticipates up to 11,400 spectators based on maximum vehicle limits and 3.8 occupants per vehicle, and assuming some walk-ins would occur. Day use park attendance during Huckfest events in the previous two years have been at or close to capacity (Table 1). All pre-existing Oceano Dunes SVRA camping and vehicle limits described below would remain in effect during the event.

Table 1. Park Attendance during Previous Huckfest Events

	Day Use Vehicle[1]	Day Use OHV[2]	Day Use Non-Vehicle[1]	Camping[1]
Permit Limit	2,580	1,720	No limit	1,000
Jun 11, 2011	1187	500	2,804	713
Jun 9, 2012	1762	596	4,064	1,034
Aug 24, 2013	2276	720	5,237	1,000

Sources:
[1] CDPR, Oceano Dunes District, Monthly Visitor Attendance Reports. 2011-2013
[2] CDPR, Oceano Dunes District, Carrying Capacity, Overall Vehicle Tally. 2011-2013

Oceano Dunes SVRA Visitor Use Limits

Oceano Dunes SVRA operates pursuant to and in conformance with an existing Coastal Development Permit (CDP 4-82-300 and subsequent amendments) and the park's General Development Plan (CDPR 1975). Vehicle use of Oceano Dunes SVRA is subject to daily limits (up to 2,580 street-legal vehicles, 1,000 street-legal vehicles for camping, and 1,720 OHVs) established under an approved 2001 Coastal Development Permit Amendment (CDP 4-82-300-A5).

Street-legal vehicle use can approach daily limits, and camping vehicle use at the park frequently reaches daily limits during summer and holiday weekends as shown in Table 2. Off-season and weekday use levels are typically less than half of summer weekend levels.

Table 2. Oceano Dunes SVRA Visitor Use Levels, Monthly Average Summer Weekend and Holiday Days, 2013

	Day Use Vehicle[1] Low-High; Avg.	Day Use OHV[2] Low-High; Avg.	Day Use Non-Vehicle[1] Low-High; Avg.	Camping[1] Low-High; Avg.
Permit Limit	2,580	1,720	No limit	1,000
May	222-1,910; 641	23-904; 204	1,010-4,043; 2,263	6-1,000; 165
June	328-1,677; 675	117-528; 263	1,720-3,811; 2,502	44-1,000; 247
July	433-2,585; 949	181-769; 353	2,335-5,946; 3,586	213-1,000; 638
Aug.	333-2,352; 888	59-720; 311	1,932-5,237; 3,171	83-1,000; 466
Sept.	285-2,562; 632	31-651; 178	1,309-5,511; 2,236	18-1,000; 182
Oct.	231-1,019; 456	35-375; 146	867-2,100; 1,502	12-1,000; 121

Sources:
[1] CDPR, Oceano Dunes District, Monthly Visitor Attendance Reports. May-October 2013
[2] CDPR, Oceano Dunes District, Day Use OHV, Carrying Capacity, Overall Vehicle Tally. May-October 2013

2.3.6 Event Access and Traffic Controls

Event Access

Each vehicle would have its own event access sticker placed on the driver side lower window at the checkpoint once verified to possess a valid ticket, either printed or via digital quick response (QR) code. Passes must be retained in order to regain entry into the SVRA. Stickers would be numbered and have a specific color designated for each day use pass and camping pass. Event staff, security, vendors, drivers, sponsors, and normal day concessionaires would also have a uniquely assigned color pass.

Pre-selling event tickets is intended to reduce traffic impacts experienced in 2013. Early beach access would be granted for event staff prior to normal public access hours. Event tickets would have a scan bar code to allow quick gate check-in. Pre-selling minimizes the number of people queued for ticket purchase and speeds event entrance. The sponsor's website would indicate when the event is sold out to prevent unnecessary travel and vehicle congestion at the event gates.

Traffic Plan

Signage would be posted at Grand Avenue and Pier Avenue entrances that the SVRA is open only to special event ticket holders. Special event signage would also be posted as far out as U.S. 101. Signage language and placement along State Route 1 would be determined based on requirements from the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans).

The event entrance at Post 2 would be set up in a toll booth style with six lanes (Figure 5). Two vehicles will be processed in each lane. Each ticket check booth would be manned with two staff – one for the east and west side – for a total of 12 entrance gate staff per shift. Cones would be placed in a pointed configuration 50 yards from the entrance gates to funnel vehicles toward the ticket check booths and prevent last minute lane jumping. Each lane would have flag men directing traffic in the correct lanes. The right lane closest to the water line would be coned 100 yards from the gate entrance to keep people from trying to go around the gate and into onto oncoming (exiting) park traffic. The right four lanes would be for spectators. The event organizer would send out a detailed map to all ticket holders explaining the lane designations. One left lane (processing two vehicles at a time) would be designated for event staff, vendors, and

sponsors. The farthest left lane would be reserved for emergency vehicles and marked with a DO NOT ENTER sign.

2.3.7 Event Staffing

Oceano Dunes District requires District staff to be present during the Huckfest event to provide monitoring and compliance as outlined in the Special Event Permit Conditions (Section 2.4 and Appendix B). Staff would include personnel from all core program areas. Administrative staff would monitor for compliance with the Special Event Permit Conditions. Resource staff would monitor and report on any special event activity interfacing with park resources in a way that needs to be modified or is inappropriate. Maintenance staff would provide additional support as needed to address unintended results of non-compliant event activity. Ranger staff would monitor the event for permit compliance in conjunction with the Administrative staff to enforce and address potential violations of California law; monitor traffic impacts and institute traffic controls as necessary for compliance with the Special Event Permit Conditions; and maintain and provide for public safety.

2.4 SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT CONDITIONS

CDPR has developed a standard set of Special Event Permit terms and conditions for special events (Appendix B). The OHMVR Division has determined that the following additional conditions specific to the event are required:

1. All laws, rules, regulations, and policies apply; including but not limited to:
    1. No public intoxication is allowed
    2. Ground fires are limited to 3' x 3'
    3. No glass containers are allowed in the park
    4. All vehicles must be properly registered
    5. All drivers must have in their possession a valid driver's license
    6. Speed limit on the beach and around campsites is 15 MPH
2. No mechanical raking or leveling of sand may occur.
3. Event will be limited to no more than twenty-five (25) participants.
4. Six State Park Resource Monitor shifts will be required for the event weekend. Additional western snowy plover monitoring will include:
    a. Install 15MPH speed limit signs in identified western snowy plover roosting areas.
    b. Track western snowy plover behavior.
    c. Summon law enforcement assistance if needed to prevent or eliminate any human use related threats to this species.
5. Six State Park Monitors will be required at the arena event site during the event. Monitors must have direct radio and cell phone communications with event and medical staff.
6. All vehicles and drivers will be subject to technical inspection; and all participants may be subject to BAC testing prior to participation in event; a zero blood alcohol content is required for participation.
7. Event must provide professional medical staff (EMT) on site with equipment and official transportation. Medical staff must be approved by State.

8. Event Noise / Sound: music/vehicles will not exceed 65 db at 300 ft. and will end by 10:30 pm. Lighting will be turned off by 11:00 pm.

9. Event Staff, Vendors, Sponsors and Volunteers names and vehicle license plates must be received by the State at least one month in advance of the event.

10. Exhibition Arena: Orange plastic fencing, reflectors, signage, and event staff must be used to designate the areas where spectators are allowed, and event staff must monitor that spectators stay within allowed areas. These areas will be approved by the State, and be erected at least 200 feet to either side of the designated path of travel (400' apart) and allow for clear path of travel for public. Event may display vendor banners on event fencing.

11. Event staff will utilize visual (red/green traffic light) and audio communications (radios) to run event and notify participants of go/no go. Event staff will be required at top and bottom of track, and along alleyways both inside and outside of event fencing to prevent incursion into the event area and/or path of travel.

12. Each participating vehicle must reach the designated “clear” area before the next participating vehicle takes off.

13. Must provide a minimum of thirty chemical toilets; 20 in event arena (5 on each side of event arena) and 10 in vendor event area. These must be removed from the event arena at the conclusion of the jumping event, and from the park Sunday, October 19, 2014.

14. Event organizers must provide Vehicle Recovery services (Tow Truck on site) for event entry during traffic influx and at the arena for event participants during the event. Recovery service must be approved by State.

15. Commercial filming is permitted by event staff or designee only; individual filming permit is required from the State for each commercial photographer/cinematographer. These must be approved and issued by the State at least one month in advance of event. No outside commercial filming allowed.

16. All vendors / sponsors wanting to display during the event must be approved by state and must provide insurance ($1Million per occurrence/$2Million Aggregate) with the following Conditions and Additional Insured information at least one month in advance of event:

    <u>Special Endorsements and Conditions on Vendor Insurance Policy:</u>

    1. State of California, its officers, agents, employees, and servants are included as additional insured but only as operations under this contract or permit are concerned;
    2. The insurer will not cancel or reduce the insured's coverage without 30 days prior written notice to State. Additional insured:

       California State Parks – Oceano Dunes District
       340 James Way, Suite 270
       Pismo Beach, CA 93449

17. Event Organizers must have appropriate permit or letter of acknowledgement from each of the following agencies to provide traffic and/or emergency services outside the park boundary:

    California Highway Patrol – Highway One Traffic
    Cal Trans – Traffic Assistance / Signage
    Grover Beach Police Department – Traffic on adjacent city streets
    Cal Fire – Emergency Services Notification

18. Event Organizers must have appropriate contract for services for each of the following services / agencies which will provide for traffic control services outside the park boundary:

    California Highway Patrol – Highway One Traffic
    CMS Signage

19. The following agency's must be contacted and appropriately addressed during event planning:

    Oceano Community Advisory Council
    Oceano Community Services District
    City of Grover Beach Parks & Recreation
    City of Grover Beach City Council
    Oceano Dunes Concessionaires

20. Event organizers must provide and gain approval by State of a Public Relations / Marketing Plan for the event which addresses the following:

    Advertising Plan
    Social Media Plan

21. Event organizers must provide and gain approval from State for the following event programs:

    Traffic Management Inside Park
    Traffic Management Outside Park
    Event Schedule and Program Content
    Event Management Plan

22. Event organizers must provide an Event Sales /Revenue Collection/Park Visitor Check-In Plan to include procedures for the following:

    1. Identify and secure the appropriate Vendor services to include:

       a. day use sales
       b. SVRA camping sales
       c. Provide service information to the State within six (6) months of the event

    2. Identify process to verify valid purchased ticket and entry into the event

    3. Identify revenue accounting and verification procedures

    4. Identify process and plan to address fraudulent passes or a sold out event

    5. Identify process for verifying camping occupancy limits and compliance. (State Parks staff will assist, but promoter must be proactive in controlling compliance of their spectators)

23. Event organizer must provide staffing plan to include the following:

    1. How will organizer clearly identify event staff from the public

    2. How will organizer clearly identify event vehicles from the public

    3. How will organizer allow for Concession operations during days of event

    4. Clearly identify numbers of staff, hours worked and number of shifts involved with traffic control at Grand Avenue.

    5. Clearly identify numbers of staff, hours worked and number of shifts involved with traffic control at Pier Avenue.

    6. Clearly identify numbers of staff, hours worked and number of shifts involved with traffic control at Mid Ramps.

    7. Clearly identify numbers of staff, hours worked and number of shifts involved with traffic control at Event Entrance.

    8. Clearly identify numbers of staff, hours worked, shifts involved with SVRA event closure beginning Wednesday, October 15 and continuing 24 hours through Sunday, October 19 at 1800 hours to prevent access to SVRA prior to organizers approval.

24. All activities occurring during this event must be reviewed and approved by the State; all activities must be operated in a safe and positive manner.

2.5 HUCKFEST EVENT PLAN TO AVOID TAKE OF WESTERN SNOWY PLOVERS

Two avian species listed under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Acts occur at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The federally-listed western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus*; threatened) and state- and federally-listed California least tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*; endangered) both breed at Oceano Dunes SVRA during the summer months and western snowy plover are present during the winter months. California least tern does not winter in California and are not expected to be present during the event period. The OHMVR Division is in the process of developing a District-wide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to permit incidental take of both species. Pending permit issuance, Oceano Dunes SVRA has developed and implements an extensive array of protection, monitoring, and management measures to avoid take of and support successful breeding by both species. These protocols are revisited each year, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and fully implemented by Oceano Dunes SVRA. The complete Take Avoidance Strategy developed for the 2014 breeding season and currently in effect at Oceano Dunes SVRA is provided in Appendix C. Relevant protocols are also in effect during the western snowy plover non-nesting season to avoid “take” of the species.

During the Huckfest special event, resource monitoring by park staff will occur consistent with the non-nesting season management measures listed in the 2014 Take Avoidance Strategy. Additional monitoring by CDPR Resource Staff would be funded by the event organizer as Special Event Permit Condition #4 (Section 2.4) to ensure protection of western snowy plover.

Figure 1 Regional Location

Pismo Huckfest Special Event Initial Study/Negative Declaration

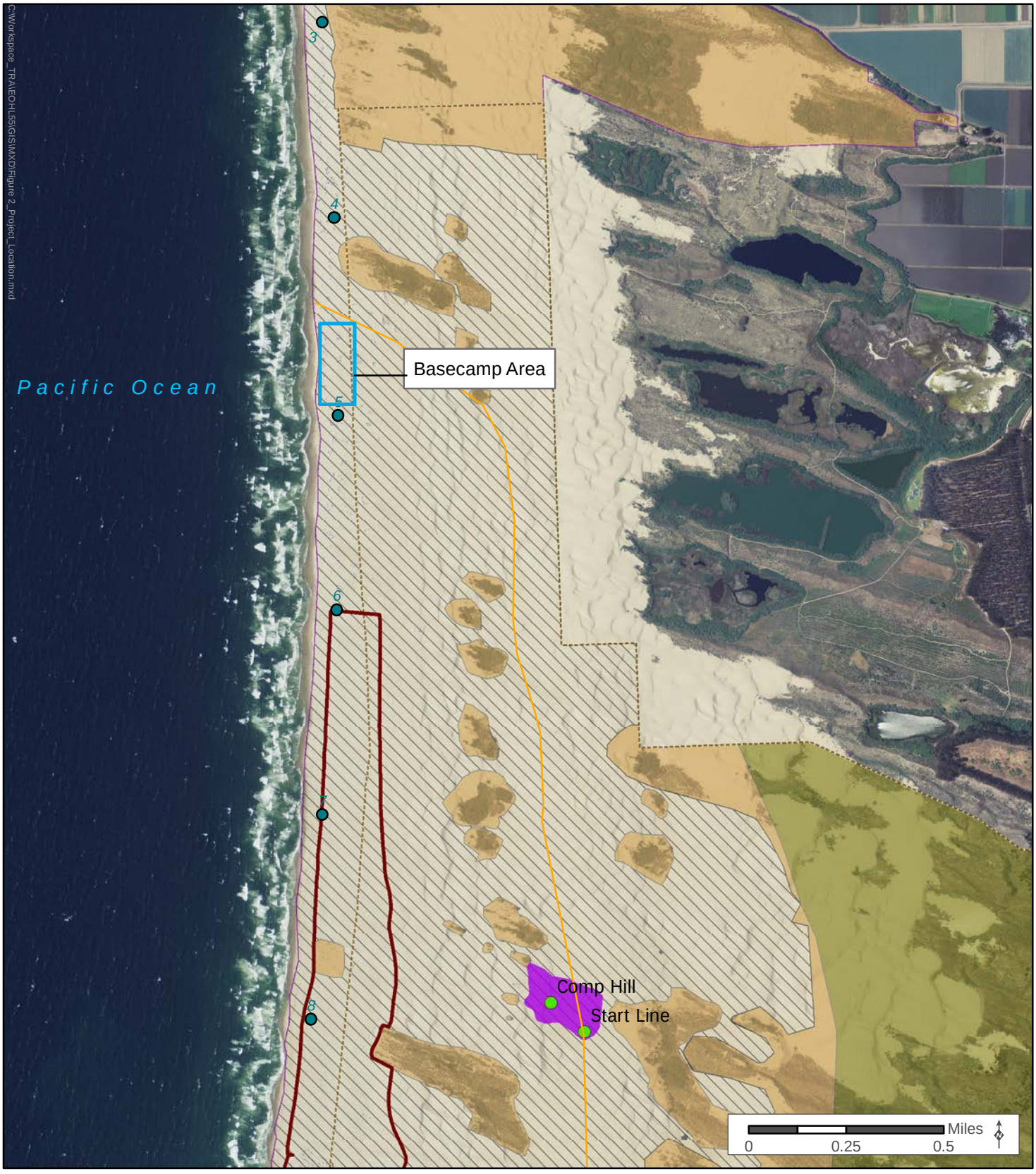


Figure 2 Project Location

Photo 1. Vehicle Start Line on Sand Highway facing west toward Competition Hill.

Photo 2. Vehicle Landing Area on top of Competition Hill.

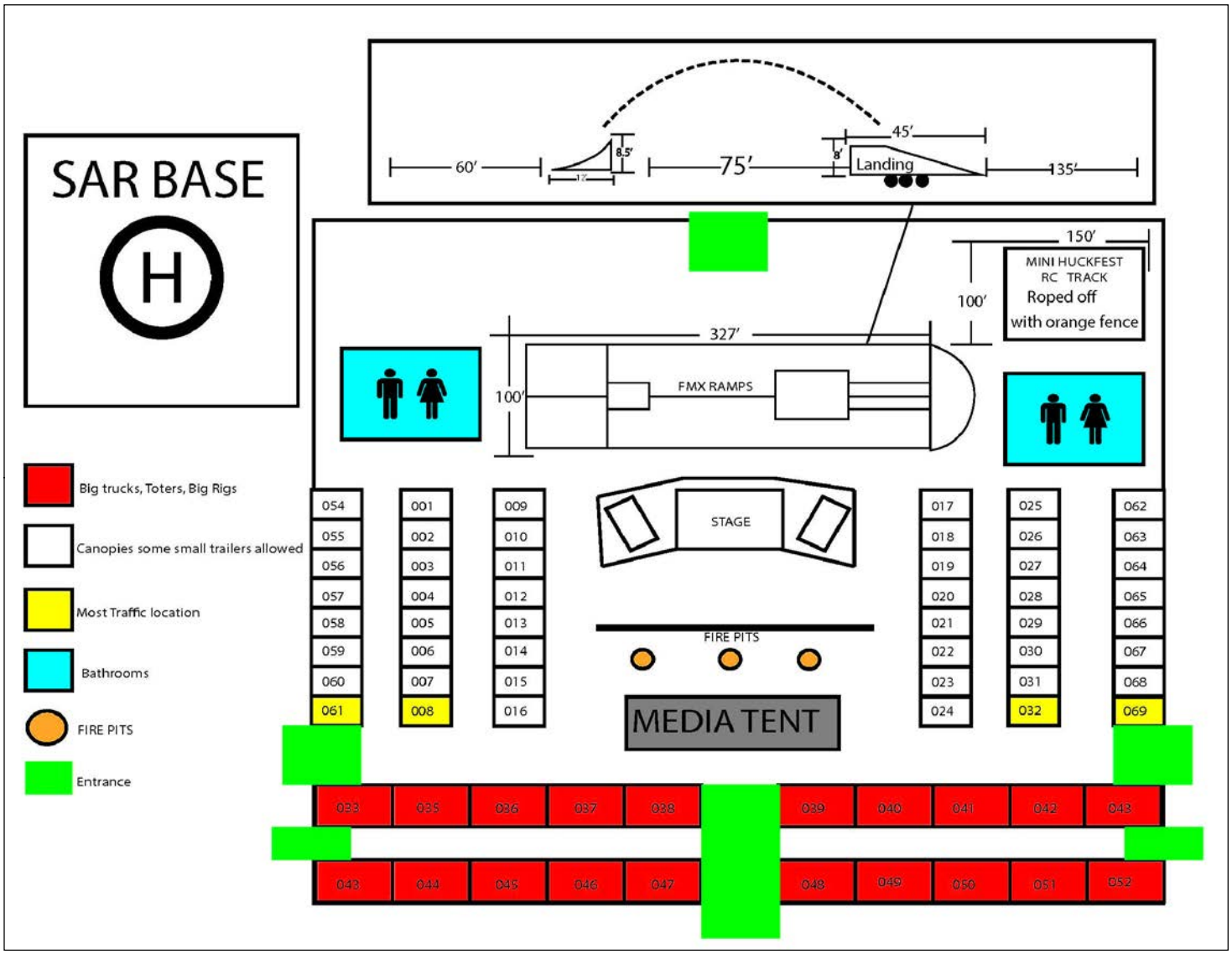
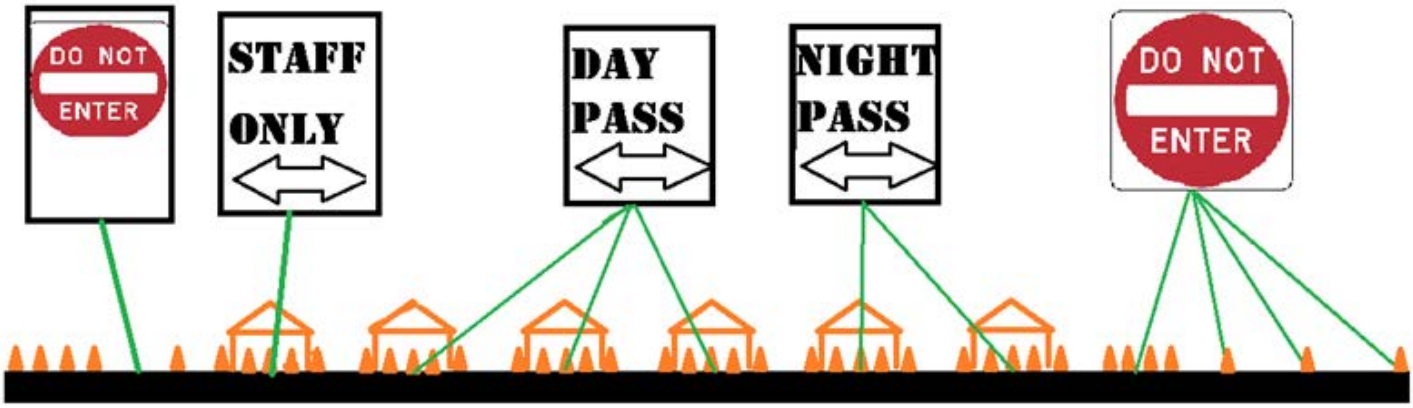
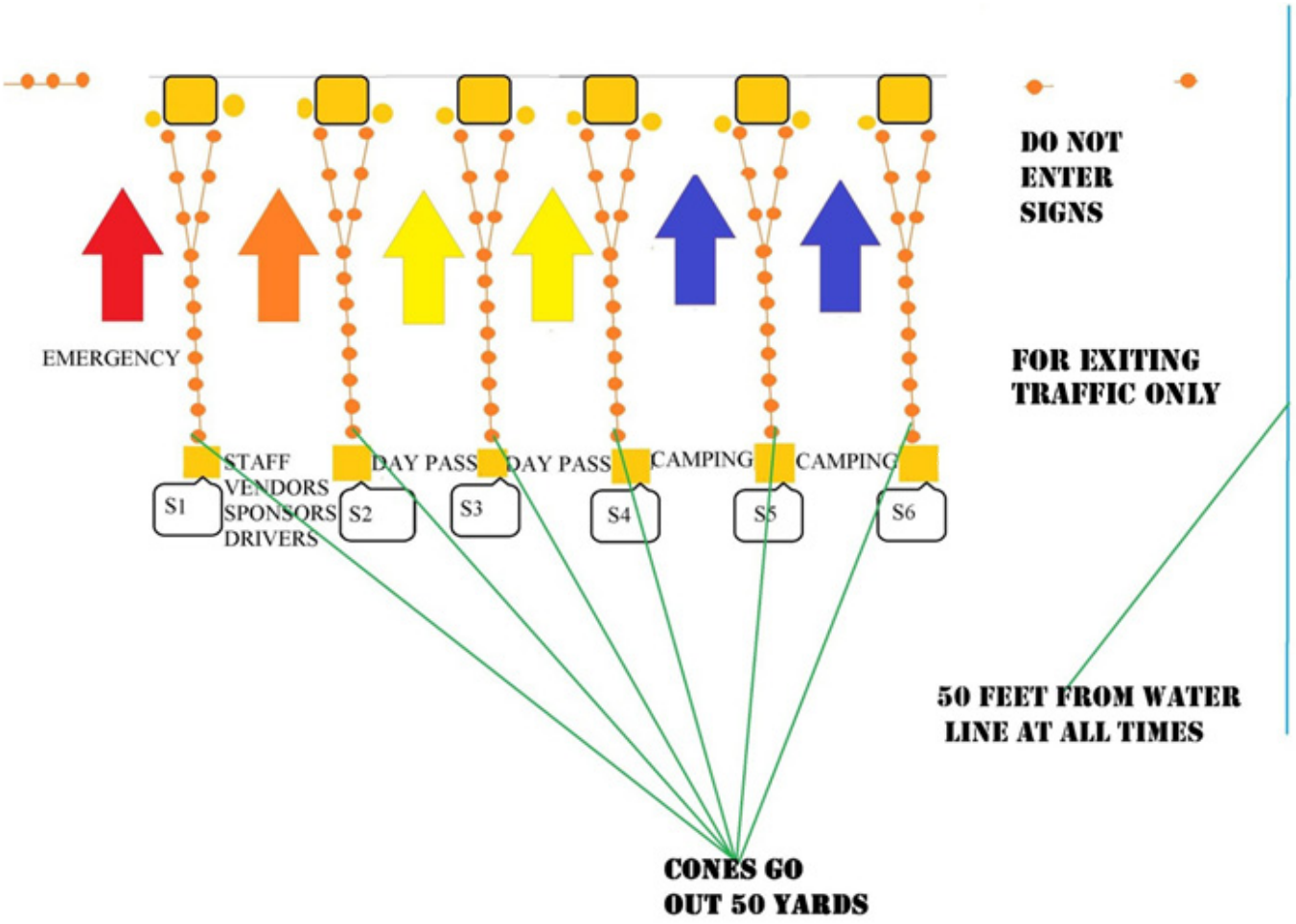


Figure 4 2014 Huckfest Base Camp



From east to west: One open section for emergency vehicles with “DO NOT ENTER” signage, two staffing lanes, two day use lanes, and two night pass lanes.



Cones will run 50 yards from south “toll booths” to north “on-coming traffic.” Each lane will also have flag men directing traffic in the correct lanes. The right lane closest to the water line will be coned 100 yards from the gate entrance to prevent people from trying to go around the gate and into oncoming (exiting) park traffic.

Figure 5 Huckfest Entrance Gate

Chapter 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND RESPONSES

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Pismo Huckfest Special Event

2. **Lead Agency Name & Address:** CDPR, OHMVR Division
   1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
   Sacramento, CA 95816

3. **Contact Person & Phone Number:** Dena Bellman, (805) 773-7170

4. **Project Location:** Oceano Dunes SVRA, Oceano, CA

5. **Project Sponsor Name & Address:** Pismo Beach Huckfest
   c/o Johnny Garner
   240 East Dana
   Nipomo, CA 93444

6. **General Plan Designation:** Park

7. **Zoning:** Recreation

8. **Description of Project:** See Chapter 2 Project Description

9. **Surrounding Land Uses & Setting:** Refer to Chapter 3 of this Document (Section 3.9 Land Use and Planning)

10. **Approval Required from Other Public Agencies:** Special Event Permit from CDPR and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Encroachment Permit.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Note that "None" is checked, as protocols already in place at Oceano Dunes SVRA avoid significant impacts to all factors.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural/Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards &Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise
☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Utilities/Service Systems	
☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	☒ None	

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☒

I find that although the proposed project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL** be prepared. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

Brent Marshall, District Superintendent, Oceano Dunes District

8/12/14

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and leaf agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any to reduce the impact to less than significance.

3.1 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed special event would occur within the southern portion of the open riding area of Oceano Dunes SVRA near Post 8 (Figure 2). Visibility of the open riding area is highly localized to views from within Oceano Dunes SVRA.

State Route 1 in the project area is eligible for State scenic highway status. However, none of the highway segments that are located in the project area (State Route 1 and U.S. 101) are officially designated as State Scenic Highways (http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm). State Route 1 becomes a State Scenic Highway north of the city of San Luis Obispo, about 14 miles north of the project site.

3.1.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact (Responses a – d). The proposed special event would take place within an area that has been subject to ongoing motorized activities, including large gatherings of vehicles, since the 1900s. The event would not result in additional street-legal vehicles or OHVs within the SVRA since use limits would remain in effect for the event. The event would not result in new trails or roads; all activities would take place in the open riding area. The event site does not

contain scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within view of a state scenic highway. None of the stretches of the highways located in the area (State Route 1 and U.S. 101) have State Scenic Highway status (http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm). State Route 1 becomes a State Scenic Highway north of the city of San Luis Obispo, about 14 miles north of the project site. The project site is not visible from the State Scenic designated portion of State Route 1. There would be no new sources of substantial light or glare as a result of this project. Since no new trails, roads, or any other type of development would occur, and the activities proposed are already occurring or entirely consistent with activities already occurring within the event area, no scenic vistas would be adversely affected.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:*				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)).	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
*In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.				

3.2.1 Environmental Setting

The project area is located within an SVRA. No farmland, forest, or timberland exists in the project area.

3.2.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact (Responses a – e). The project area is located within an SVRA. No farmland, forest, or timberland exists on the event site, and adjacent farmland, forest, or timberland would not be affected. The project site is zoned as park land in the San Luis Obispo County General Plan. The proposed project would not remove any acreage from agricultural production. The project would have no impact on prime farmland or other agricultural resources in the project vicinity. The project would not affect any land that has been zoned for agricultural use or is currently in Williamson Act contracts; nor would this project conflict with any land that has been zoned as forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. The project does not involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion forest land to non-forest use.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.3.1 Environmental Setting

Federal, state, and local governments control air quality through the implementation of laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. The federal and state governments have established ambient air quality standards for "criteria" pollutants considered harmful to the environment and public health. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been established for carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), fine particulate matter (particles 2.5 microns in diameter and smaller, or PM2.5), inhalable coarse particulate matter (particles between 2.5 and 10 microns in diameter, or PM10), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2). California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are more stringent than the national standards for the pollutants listed above and include the following additional pollutants: hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), sulfates (SO_X), and vinyl chloride. In addition to these criteria pollutants, the federal and state governments have classified certain pollutants as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) or toxic air contaminants (TACs), such as asbestos and diesel particulate matter. In addition to ambient air quality standards, the federal and state governments have established exhaust emission standards for on- and off-road vehicles, such as cars, trucks, recreational vehicles, and heavy-duty diesel construction equipment as well as the fuels these vehicles use.

Oceano Dunes SVRA is located on the southwestern San Luis Obispo County coast, within the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB). The SCCAB is designated nonattainment of the CAAQS (1-hour and 8-hour) and NAAQS (8-hour), eastern SLO County only) for ozone and the CAAQS (24-hour and annual) for PM10 (SLO County APCD 2013a). In addition, preliminary data from a SLO County APCD-maintained ambient air quality monitor downwind of Oceano Dunes SVRA (known as the CDF Monitor because it located at a CalFire Station) indicates PM10 concentrations have exceeded federal standards 8 times since 2012; however, the SCCAB is in attainment of NAAQS for PM10.

The SLO County Air Pollution Control District is the local agency responsible for maintaining air quality and regulating emissions of air pollutants within San Luis Obispo County. The SLO APCD carries out this responsibility by preparing, adopting, and implementing plans, regulations, and rules that are designed to achieve attainment of state and national air quality standards. In 2001, the SLO APCD adopted its *2001 Clean Air Plan*. This plan updates the SLO APCD's 1998 Clean Air Plan, addresses ozone and particulate matter emissions, and identifies the control measures necessary to attain air quality standards. The APCD currently has nine regulations containing approximately 100 rules that control and limit emissions from sources of air pollutants. This includes Rule 1001, Coastal Dunes Dust Control Requirements, which requires the OHMVR Division, as operator of the Oceano Dunes SVRA, to reduce particulate matter emissions from the area under its control. The SLO APCD and the OHMVR Division are in the process of implementing efforts to reduce PM10 levels at the CDF monitoring station and areas downwind of Oceano Dunes SVRA. In spring 2014, the OHMVR Division installed a series of wind fences in the open riding and camping area, as well as approximately 5,000 straw bales east of the open riding and camping area, to reduce dust and PM10 levels during the spring windy season.

3.3.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. This two-day special event does not involve changes in land use or stationary sources that would emit substantial amounts of pollutants and would therefore not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SLO County APCD's 2001 *Clean Air Plan* or 2012 – 2017 *Strategic Action Plan*. These plans include PM and ozone pre-cursor pollutant emissions (i.e., NOX, ROG) from mobile sources such as the vehicles that could be used at the event in their existing and forecasted emissions inventories and plans and actions for achieving air quality standards.

b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Less Than Significant Impact. Huckfest is a two-day, temporary event that is expected to draw a large number of visitors to Oceano Dunes SVRA. These visitors would generate emissions primarily from on- and off-highway gasoline-powered vehicle trips and other recreational activities (e.g., campfires) that are consistent with normal park operations. The intermittent and short-term, temporary nature of these combustion emission sources would not cause or substantially contribute to a violation of an ozone or other air quality standard.

PM10 is the pollutant of greatest concern downwind of Oceano Dunes SVRA. Strong prevailing winds from the northwest pass over Oceano Dunes SVRA and exert a force on the dunes that causes particles to move along the ground surface. This movement can take the form of sand creep, in which sand grains are pushed along the ground surface, or saltation, in which sand grains are lifted by the wind, carried a short distance, and then fall back down to the ground surface. These processes can cause some particles to become suspended in the air and carried away downwind, where they can affect air quality and attainment status. Prevailing wind patterns are most pronounced during the spring (approximately March to June) and fall (September and October). During this time, Oceano Dunes SVRA is exposed to frequent and strong winds that blow generally from the northwest towards the southeast. In its latest monitoring network plan, the SLO County APCD identifies the CDF monitoring site as a source-oriented site measuring impacts from Oceano Dunes SVRA (SLO APCD 2013b). Huckfest

would not generate vehicle or camping activity above park limits and would therefore not cause or substantially contribute to a PM10 air quality violation. Moreover, the OHMVR Division continues to work with the APCD to control dust and PM10 downwind of Oceano Dunes SVRA, both voluntarily and as required under Rule 1001. These ongoing efforts are intended to result in a net air quality benefit downwind of Oceano Dunes SVRA.

c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in a) and b) above, Huckfest would not conflict with an applicable air quality plan nor cause or substantially contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation. Thus, the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in any pollutant for which the SCCAB does not attain ambient air quality standards (ozone and PM10).

d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are people or groups of people that have an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants. A sensitive receptor is generally defined as a location where human populations, especially children, seniors, and sick people may be continuously exposed to air pollutants. These typically include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling units, including residential units. Huckfest is a two-day event that would occur at Oceano Dunes SVRA, more than a mile away from most sensitive receptors. The event would not increase day use (vehicle or OHV) and camping at Oceano Dunes SVRA above permit limits, but is expected to result in a large number of walk-in visitors that are likely to park in the vicinity of sensitive receptors in Oceano; however, given the intermittent and short-term (one day), temporary nature of the event's activities, it would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. Visitor vehicle traffic in Oceano has the potential to cause common odors associated with vehicle operation (e.g., gasoline, oils) in the immediate vicinity of the roadway; however, these odors would not affect a substantial number of people. Event activities within Oceano Dunes SVRA would create objectionable off-site odors that could affect a substantial number of people.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.4.1 Regulatory Setting

In addition to CEQA, other federal and state laws apply to the biological resources identified in this report. Each of these laws is identified and discussed below.

Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA)

FESA establishes a broad public and federal interest in identifying, protecting, and providing for the recovery of threatened or endangered species. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are designated in FESA as responsible for identifying endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, carrying out programs for the conservation of these species, and rendering opinions regarding the impact of proposed federal actions on listed species. The USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are charged with implementing and enforcing the ESA. USFWS has authority over terrestrial and continental

aquatic species, and NMFS has authority over species that spend all or part of their life cycle at sea, such as salmonids.

Section 9 of FESA prohibits the unlawful "take" of any listed fish or wildlife species. Take, as defined by FESA, means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such action." The USFWS's regulations define harm to mean "an act which actually kills or injures wildlife." Such an act "may include "significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering" (50 CFR § 17.3). Take can be permitted under FESA pursuant to sections 7 and 10. Section 7 provides a process for take permits for federal projects or projects subject to a federal permit, and Section 10 provides a process for incidental take permits for projects without a federal nexus. FESA does not extend the take prohibition to federally listed plants on private land, other than prohibiting the removal, damage, or destruction of such species in violation of state law.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA)

Under the MBTA, it is unlawful to "pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not." In short, under the MBTA it is illegal to disturb a nest that is in active use, since this could result in killing a bird or destroying an egg. The USFWS oversees implementation of the MBTA.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 (Section 404)

The United States does not have a federal, comprehensive law protecting wetlands. However, through the regulation of activities in "waters of the United States," the Clean Water Act of 1972 is the main federal law used to protect wetlands. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States," which includes traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, certain tributaries of any of these waters, and wetlands that meet these criteria or that are adjacent to any of these waters.

The USACE also regulates activities in waters of the United States under the federal Rivers and Harbors Act. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires permits for any work or structures in navigable waters of the United States, including wetlands within or adjacent to these waters. Both dredging and filling are regulated activities under the Act. Navigable waters are defined as those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, or that are presently, have been, or may be used for transport of interstate or foreign commerce.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

Provisions of CESA protect state-listed threatened and endangered species. The Fish and Game Commission is charged with establishing a list of endangered and threatened species. CDFW regulates activities that may result in "take" of individuals (i.e., "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill"). Habitat degradation or modification is not expressly included in the definition of "take" under the California Fish and Game Code, but CDFW has interpreted "take" to include the killing of a member of a species which is the proximate result of habitat modification.

Fish and Game Code Section 1602

Section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW of any proposed activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing pavement where it may pass into any stream, river, or lake. CDFW uses the USFWS definition of wetlands when regulating these activities.

Fish and Game Code Section 3503 and 3503.5

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 3503, it is unlawful to "take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto." Section 3503.5 provides similar protection specifically to raptors and their nests. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered "taking" by CDFW.

Fish and Game Code Section 4150

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 4150, "[a]ll mammals occurring naturally in California which are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals, are nongame mammals. Nongame mammals or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission."

3.4.2 Environmental Setting

Vegetation and Wildlife

Four sensitive habitat types are found in and around the project site: coastal strand, active pioneer coastal dune, central coast dune scrub, and central coast foredunes. Oceano Dunes SVRA represents the northern extent of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes system, having the plant and animal communities that are typical of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, and is therefore considered part of the larger dune system.

The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes is the largest remaining dune system south of San Francisco and the second largest in the state of California. It encompasses an 18-mile (29 km) stretch of coastline on the central coast of California and extends from southern San Luis Obispo County to northern Santa Barbara County. The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes system is home to a unique dunes ecosystem and is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are those plants and animals that are legally protected or otherwise recognized as vulnerable to habitat loss or population decline by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. In this analysis, special-status species include:

- Species that are state and/or federally listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered
- Species considered as candidates for listing as threatened or endangered
- CDFW Species of Special Concern
- Fully protected species per California Fish and Game Code
- Plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and the CDFW to be rare, threatened, or endangered [California rare plant ranked, (CRPR); e.g. CRPR 1B)

A list of those special-status species that have potential to occur in the project area is presented in Appendix D. Due to the fact that the proposed project activity would occur within the open riding area of an SVRA, most of the species have no or low potential to occur in the proposed special event area. These species are summarized here and are not further addressed in this analysis. Two species with potential for occurrence, California least tern and western snowy plover, are discussed further below.

Insects

There is a single CNDDB record for sandy beach tiger beetle in the Oceano quad, and it is located near Oso Flaco Lake, approximately two miles to the south of the event area. There are no CNDDB records for globose dune beetle in the Oceano quad. No specific surveys for globose dune beetle or sandy beach tiger beetle were conducted for this project as it is considered extremely unlikely that either sensitive beetle would be found in the project area. The project area is open to OHV riding and camping throughout the year and has no native dune vegetation that could support these two species or the other sensitive invertebrates. None of these species has any formal designation under either the state or federal ESA, and none are on any candidate list maintained by either agency.

Fish

Tidewater goby and steelhead (south-central California coast DPS) both may occur within Arroyo Grande Creek. Arroyo Grande Creek must be crossed to reach the open riding and camping area, including the event site. The area of vehicle crossing is characterized as sandy beach, adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, varying in width from approximately 50 feet wide to several hundred feet wide, depending on tidal conditions. In this location, also referred to as the creek mouth, the stream conditions vary depending on the season of the year. Stream flow can vary from several thousand cubic feet per second during high flow periods in the winter and spring to no outflow to the ocean during the summer and fall, as the creek mouth is barred over until the first big rains of the season, usually in November or December. Due to the drought conditions, Arroyo Grande Creek did not breach the beach and has not connected to the ocean during 2014. Consequently, the events would not affect the tidewater goby or steelhead individuals or populations since vehicles would be crossing dry sand instead of a flowing creek.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Pond turtles, silvery legless lizards, and coast horned lizards are not expected to occur within the project area due to lack of habitat. The California red-legged frog is a federally-listed threatened species known to occur at Oceano Dunes SVRA. This species is restricted to the freshwater aquatic environment around Oso Flaco Lake and has been observed in upper Arroyo Grande Creek, outside of park boundaries. California red-legged frog has the potential of traveling through uplands during the rainy season; however, but is unlikely to be present in the areas of or affected by the special event.

Birds

As stated in Appendix D, sharp-shinned hawks and brown pelicans are not expected to occur on the project site and therefore would not be affected by the project. Brown pelicans occur offshore and on the beach of Oceano Dunes SVRA. The Huckfest event would occur on the beach 0.5 miles from the shore within an established open riding area of the SVRA. The event would not bring additional users to the park, and thus would not be expected to affect brown pelicans.

Plants

Oceano Dunes SVRA supports several special-status plant species, including the state and/or federally-listed species in Appendix D. These plants have been accurately mapped and are protected from OHV disturbance and other recreational uses. Most of these species are located in the back dunes or near Oso Flaco Lake. None of the listed sensitive plant populations are in close proximity to the project area and none would be affected by the project.

3.4.3 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. No special-status plant or wildlife species would be affected by the project. Oceano Dunes SVRA contains known nesting habitat for the western snowy plover, a federally-listed threatened species, and the California least tern, a federally- and state-listed endangered species (Figure 2). The least tern is also fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code. The project area is not currently designated by the USFWS as critical habitat for either species. Both of these birds nest in dune environments.

The western snowy plover and California least tern populations are actively managed at Oceano Dunes SVRA. Appendix C contains the complete protection, monitoring, and management measures currently being implemented at Oceano Dunes SVRA for these species. These measures are drafted each year in cooperation with the USFWS and CDFW and are designed to avoid take of the species. The measures include establishing an approximately 300-acre fenced area at the southern portion of the riding and camping area that is closed to all park visitors (Figure 2). An additional approximately 62-acre area is fenced near Oso Flaco Lake. The exclosures protect breeding plovers and terns not only from park visitors, but also from terrestrial predators. The great majority of plover and tern nesting at Oceano Dunes SVRA occur within the protected exclosures. Very few nesting attempts occur within the area open to riding. Monitors erect additional exclosures as needed around nests observed within the riding area consistent with current protocols (see Appendix C).

The intensive western snowy plover and California least tern protection and management program being carried out at Oceano Dunes SVRA has been effective in balancing the OHV recreation with plover and tern nesting as evidenced by recent population data. In 2013, the number of chicks fledging per male was 2.03, a high level of productivity that will promote population growth. During the 2002-13 period, the number of fledglings produced per male has exceeded 1.2 in 9 of the 12 years. The chick fledging rate in 2013 was a high 54.5% (187/343). This compares to 24.9% in 2012 and an average rate of 37.9% (range=7-67%) for the ten-year period 2002-11. In 2013, there was a minimum of 163 breeding adults (71 females and 92 males). This is a decline of 14.2% from the minimum estimated number of 190 breeding adults in 2012 and compares to 95, 114, 137, and 160 adults for 2008-11, respectively. The 2013 California least tern nesting monitoring at Oceano Dunes SVRA indicated a minimum of 48 breeding pairs in 2013, a 17.1% increase from a minimum of 41 breeding pairs in 2012, and above the average of 39.0 pairs (range=20-55) from 2002-12. The 2013 least tern chick fledge rate at Oceano Dunes SVRA was 66%, with 57 nests, and an 87% hatch rate (CDPR 2013).

The requested October date for the 2014 Huckfest event falls within the non-nesting period for the California least tern and the western snowy plover (October 1 through February 28), and thus no nests, eggs, or chicks would be affected. Least terns would not be expected to be present. The ODSVRA management measures for snowy plover (Appendix C) primarily address park use impacts during the nesting season and holiday weekends when visitor levels reach permitted limits. Non-nesting season measures included in the Oceano Dunes SVRA management measures include:

- Monitoring for location of snowy plover within Oceano Dunes SVRA
- Continued enforcement of dog leash laws
- Continued enforcement of the posted 15 MPH vehicle speed limits on the beach

The Huckfest event would not draw additional visitors to the park beyond permitted limits and the event would occur within an open riding area already active with OHV use. Therefore, the Huckfest event would not create new or increased risk of impact to western snowy plovers and California least terns. Increased monitoring and enforcement of park rules during the Huckfest event would occur as a condition of the Special Event Permit (Section 2.4). With park management measures and permit conditions in place, the special event impact on snowy plover is less than significant. No additional mitigation is required.

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact (Responses b – c). Arroyo Grande Creek typically has little to no outflow to the ocean in October; thus, vehicles entering Oceano Dunes SVRA during the Huckfest event to reach the open riding and camping area would not be driving through the creek. Existing protocols are already in effect to protect the adjacent sensitive aquatic habitat of Arroyo Grande Creek and the lagoon from adverse impacts during vehicular crossings. Vehicle entry into the lagoon is prohibited. No impact to riparian or other aquatic habitat would occur due to the proposed Huckfest event, which would occur in the sand dune riding area. The portion of the dunes where the Huckfest event would be held is already open to riding, and the event would not change the amount or nature of the use within that area. Sensitive dune vegetation is fenced off from vehicular entry. No impact to sensitive dune habitat would occur. Implementation of the project would not result in the removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other disturbances to wetlands as no wetlands occur within the riding and camping area of the SVRA.

d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact. See response to a. above.

e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. No heritage or ordinance trees are in the project area. The project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The OHMVR Division is currently developing an HCP that includes Oceano Dunes SVRA, but the HCP has not been approved by the trustee agencies. This project would be consistent with activities anticipated by the HCP.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.5.1 Environmental Setting

No archaeological sites are known to occur within the open riding area of Oceano Dunes SVRA where the annual Huckfest event is located.

The cultural resources located within the Oceano Dunes SVRA are part of the OHMVR Division's Cultural Resource Management Program. All known cultural resources within the Oceano Dunes SVRA are surveyed, recorded, protected, and preserved in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), PRC 5024 and PRC 5024.5, among additional federal and state laws and regulations.

In accordance with CEQA, PRC 5024, and PRC 5024.5 the Huckfest project area was surveyed by OHMVR Division archaeologists as part of a cultural resource inventory of the Oceano Dunes District, which includes both Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach. The cultural resource inventory resulted in a final report, A Cultural Resource Inventory of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, San Luis Obispo County, California (Perez 2011). According to this inventory, no cultural resources exist within the Huckfest project area.

The preliminary field work for the cultural resource inventory included consultation with the NAHC on September 14, 2010 to obtain a most recent Native American Contact List. Consultation letters were sent to all Native American individuals/organizations listed on the Contact List on October 21, 2010. Northern Chumash tribal representatives Lei Lynn Odom, Peggi Odom, Johnny Odom, and Willow Olivas-Manos, participated in the consultation process for the cultural resource inventory of Oceano Dunes SVRA as well as participated in the archaeological field survey that took place from 2009 to 2011.

As a result of this cultural resource inventory, 34 previously recorded sites and 11 new sites were recorded for a total of 45 sites, 41 of which are prehistoric, one multi-component, and three historic-era sites. The cultural resource inventory report includes prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic overviews specific to the project region, fieldwork results, and also provides preliminary evaluations of all recorded cultural resources according to both the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources criteria. Lastly, this report provides cultural resource management recommendations to be used when evaluating potential project-related impacts to resources in compliance with CEQA, PRC 5024

and PRC 5024.5. These recommendations incorporate protection and preservation measures for cultural resources, including archaeological site monitoring.

Aided by previous cultural resource inventory reports, park and project managers developed a perimeter fence throughout the Oceano Dunes District boundary that designates where off-road vehicular use can take place. The fence location was designed to exclude all known cultural resources from the public recreational use area.

All cultural resources recorded during the 2009-2011 cultural resource inventory and identified as having significant cultural value and eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historical Resources, occur within the fenced portion of the SVRA and are not located in designated riding areas which include the Huckfest project area. In compliance with PRC 5024 and 5024.5, these significant cultural areas are annually monitored by OHMVR Division archaeologists along with Lei Lynn and Peggi Odom.

OHMVR Division archaeologists monitor significant resources using an Archaeological Site Condition Assessment Record (ASCAR) form. An ASCAR form is used by archaeologists as a way of updating the current condition of previously recorded sites. An assessment of a site's current condition includes documenting any physical changes to the site because of impacts related to either natural (animal burrowing, erosion, etc.) or park visitor effects. ASCAR monitoring reports are conducted at least twice a year to document the condition of archaeological sites and provide a measurable baseline for the condition of archaeological resources located within Oceano Dunes SVRA. Most importantly, the information recorded on an ASCAR form plays a crucial role in the OHMVR Division's managerial decisions that have the potential to affect archaeological sites. When completed annually, ASCAR forms assist OHMVR Division archaeologists, park rangers, and additional field staff to monitor disturbances to cultural resources effectively. Routine cultural resource monitoring and documentation on ASCARs have resulted in the routine maintenance and repair of the fencing around these sensitive sites, as well as the removal of all debris such as garbage that may have blown into the fenced area.

Native American consultation and participation plays a crucial role in the Division's Cultural Resource Management Program, and is routinely implemented as part of the 5024 Archaeological Review process and as part of the park's responsibilities under CEQA and Executive Order B-10-11. Contract Native American Tribal consultants for the Oceano Dunes District are regularly consulted with and participate in ongoing field work, including survey and monitoring for Oceano Dunes District-related projects, and are consulted during planning for preservation and protection of cultural resources within the SVRA.

All cultural resource inventory reports, site records, and annual ASCARs, along with NAHC correspondence and additional Native American consultation correspondence are on file at the OHMVR Headquarters. The OHMVR Division's Cultural Resource Management Program ensures full compliance with CEQA, PRC 5024 and 5024.5, and continues to maintain, update, and protect the cultural resources of Oceano Dunes SVRA in consultation with Oceano Dunes SVRA staff and Native American individuals/organizations.

3.5.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No Impact (Responses a – b). The area identified for the special event has been open to OHV use for many years. The event was reviewed by the OHMVR Division, and it was determined that there are no known archaeological sites within the area to be used for event activities. Trespass within the closed areas of the SVRA during special events is not known to occur. Ample protections are in effect, along with ongoing monitoring, to prevent issues from arising. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are discovered, pursuant to standard CDPR protocols all activities surrounding the site would cease until the area has been cleared by a CDPR archaeologist.

c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. The event would not significantly modify existing topography or impact paleontological resources or geologic features. There has been no documentation of unique paleontological resources or geological features in the project area by OHMVR Division cultural resource specialists, or by other resource staff.

d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No Impact. A cultural resource inventory performed in 2000 at Oceano Dunes SVRA (CDPR 2000) did not reveal evidence of human remains. However, Native American remains were located in June 2008. These remains were located more than three miles to the south of the proposed project area, well outside the open riding area of the park. The area identified for the event has been open to OHV use for many years. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered, pursuant to standard OHMVR Division protocols all activities surrounding the site would cease until the area has been cleared by an OHMVR Division archaeologist and the County Coroner is notified.

3.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.6.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

2. Strong seismic ground shaking?

3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

4. Landslides?

No Impact (Responses a1 – a4). Although Oceano Dunes SVRA is located in a seismically active area associated with the San Andreas fault system, the proposed special event would not expose people or structures to seismic or landslide hazards. No new buildings or permanent facilities are proposed; small temporary structures associated with the event such as vendor tables or spectator fencing would not pose a hazard to park visitors during a seismic event. San Luis Obispo County hazard maps show the project area to have a low potential for landslides. Dunes are by their nature unstable and subject to movement, slippage, and blow out. Vehicular activity on active dunes can contribute to unstable soil conditions. However, the area proposed for the Huckfest is currently open to vehicular activity as part of the SVRA. No additional landslide risk would result from the operation of this event.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

No Impact. The project activities would occur in sand, a highly erosive material, but typical of the area because of the beach location. The Huckfest event area is currently open to vehicular activity as part of the SVRA. No additional erosion would result from this event. All event activities would be located on the sandy beach and dunes; therefore, there would be no loss of topsoil.

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

No Impact. Staging facilities for the event would be located on the flat portions of the beach. The event course would be located in the dunes, which are in constant flux due to prevailing coastal winds. The sand in the project area is subject to seasonal and daily fluctuations from wind erosion, and the event would not affect the stability of the beach or dune sheet. Sand by nature is unstable; however, no impact would occur as the small, temporary nature of the event facilities would not expose people or buildings to any risk from sand movement.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

No Impact. Expansive soils are not a consideration in the sandy soils found in the project area.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. The project does not propose installation of new septic tanks nor does the project create the need for a system for disposal of additional wastewater.

3.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.7.1 Regulatory and Environmental Setting

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and affect regulation of the Earth's temperature are known as greenhouse gases (GHGs). Common GHGs include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6). GHG emissions from human activities contribute to overall GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and the corresponding effects of global climate change (e.g., rising temperatures, increased severe weather events such as drought and flooding). GHGs can remain in the atmosphere long after they are emitted. The potential for a GHG to absorb and trap heat in the atmosphere is considered its global warming potential (GWP). The reference gas for measuring GWP is CO_2, which has a GWP of one. By comparison, CH_4 has a GWP of 21, which means that one molecule of CH_4 has 21 times the effect on global warming as one molecule of CO_2. Multiplying the estimated emissions for non-CO_2 GHGs by their GWP determines their carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e), which enables a project's combined global warming potential to be expressed in terms of mass CO_2 emissions.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32) requires CARB to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. CARB identified 427 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e) as the total statewide GHG 1990 emissions level and adopted this level as the 2020 GHG emissions limit (CARB 2007). CARB estimates 2020 GHG emission levels will reach approximately 600 million MTCO2e if no actions are taken under a "business-as-usual" scenario. To achieve the necessary GHG reductions, CARB approved the *Climate Change Scoping Plan* on December 11, 2008 identifies the measures (i.e., mandatory rules and regulations and voluntary measures) that will achieve at least 174 MMTCO2e of reductions and reduce statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (CARB 2009). In 2011, the CARB released a supplement to the 2008 Scoping Plan Functional Equivalent Document (FED) that included an updated 2020 BAU statewide GHG emissions level projection of 507 MMTCO2e (CARB 2011). CARB recently released its first update to the Scoping Plan (CARB 2014b). CARB has also adopted several rules designed to reduce vehicular GHG emissions, including the Pavley Regulations (AB1493), which will reduce GHG emissions from passenger vehicles between 22 and 30 percent, and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which requires a ten percent reduction in the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 2020.

In 2009, the OHMVR Division adopted its Strategic Plan, which describes five guiding principles and adopts a framework of six goals for the OHMVR Division to meets its legislative mandates (OHMVR Division 2009). The OHMVR Division adheres to the guiding principles outlined in its Strategic Plan during management and operation of its SVRAs, including the principles of sustainability, transparency in decision making, and use of sound data for management decision making. Specifically, as outlined in Objective 1.3 of the Strategic Plan, this would

include a goal, by 2020, to reduce the carbon footprint associated with SVRA management by 25% below 2009/2012 fiscal year levels.

In 2011, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors adopted the EnergyWise Plan, which outlines the County's approach to reducing municipal and community-wide GHG emissions to 15% below baseline 2006 levels by establishing goals, measures, and actions (San Luis Obispo County 2011). This plan includes emissions from off-road equipment and transportation in its GHG inventories and reduction goals.

3.7.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. Huckfest is temporary (two-day) recreational event that would generate greenhouse gas emissions from existing, in-use on- and off-road vehicles and other recreational activities. The event would not involve stationary sources of equipment that would consume substantial amounts of electricity or fuel, would not result in vehicle or camping activity at the park that exceeds permitted levels, and would not result in permanent land use changes that significantly alter existing recreation and vehicle use patterns. In addition, the event organizer would control and manage traffic to reduce idling and the inefficient combustion of fuels to the maximum extent practicable. Any temporary increase in GHG emissions above levels that would be produced without the event would not represent a significant direct or indirect effect on the environment.

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The project consists of a recreational event. There are no applicable plans, policies, or regulations governing GHG emissions from recreational events; however, individual recreationists and vehicles would be subject to rules and regulations pertaining to vehicle emission standards, fuel standards, and regional transportation plans intended to reduce GHG emissions, such as the Pavley Regulations and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

3.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.8.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or hazardous waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact (Responses a – c). Gasoline and diesel needed to power vehicles and generators would be the only hazardous materials in use on the project site, and park rules require that fuel be legally contained within the vehicles or in specially designed fuel cans. In addition, the event would not increase the number of park visitors or the amount of fuel used over the event weekend. The project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of other types of hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead, toxic waste, etc. The project would not involve hazardous emissions. The nearest school is over one mile from the event site.

d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. No hazardous material sites are known to occur on or in the vicinity of the project site. The project site is not on the Department of Toxic Substance Control's Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List (Cortese List).

e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact (Responses e – f). The airport closest to the project site is the Oceano County Airport located in Oceano. This airport is a general aviation airport and has an adopted Airport Land Use Plan (2007). The airport is located less than a quarter-mile east of the northern portion of Oceano Dunes SVRA, just northeast of Post 1. The project site is located over one mile south of the airport (near Post 4) and is not located within the Oceano County Airport land use plan area (Airport Land Use Commission 2007). The airport would not pose a safety hazard to participants of the special event. There are no private air strips within two miles of the project site.

g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The proposed special event would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with the existing Oceano Dunes SVRA emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires, including where wild lands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wild lands?

No Impact. The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or

where residences are intermixed with wildlands. The project is not within the urban/wildland interface. Oceano Dunes SVRA has adequate fire fighting capabilities in the event of small fires within the park, and for larger fires, the area would be subject to existing Oceano Dunes SVRA emergency response plans.

3.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.9.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

No Impact. The project would not create the need for additional wastewater discharge and would not cause any discharge with the potential to violate water quality standards. As discussed previously, although vehicles must cross the Arroyo Grande Creek mouth area to reach the event area, the creek has little to no flow to the ocean during the month of October. Additionally, the event would not generate a substantial increase in vehicles within the park or additional creek crossings over what would otherwise occur regardless of the event. The Huckfest event would be subject to the Arroyo Grande Creek protection measures that are in effect at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

No Impact. The project would not extract groundwater and therefore would not affect the quantity of subsurface water supplies. The project would not change the direction or rate of groundwater flow. The project does not involve the use of groundwater supplies and therefore does not impact the groundwater table or nearby wells.

c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

No Impact (Responses c – e). The existing drainage pattern of the area would not be altered as a result of the event. The project would not alter the course of a stream or river, including Arroyo Grande Creek. As discussed previously, although vehicles must cross the Arroyo Grande Creek mouth area to reach the event area, the event would not generate additional vehicles within the park or additional creek crossings, and the creek would have little or no outflow to the ocean. There would be no increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff, because no new impermeable surfaces would be developed for the event. The event would not create additional sources of polluted runoff.

f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

No Impact. The small event would not affect water quality as it would not change the intensity or amount of use of Oceano Dunes SVRA.

g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

No Impact (Responses g – i). According to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Hazard Map, the project site is located within a flood hazard area and/or a 100-year floodplain. However, the project does not involve construction of residential or other structures and would not occur during the most likely time for a flood event to occur (e.g., rainy season).

j. Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact. The project is located in an area that could be subject to inundation by tsunamis; however, the event is of very short duration and would not cause an increase in visitor use limits at the park. In the unlikely event of a tsunami, an emergency response plan is in effect for the County.

3.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.10.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. There is no established community within the project area.

b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less Than Significant Impact. No significant impacts would occur from the project as the event would not substantially increase the number of visitors on a typical weekend day or over the daily use limits imposed at the park; nor would it change the nature of use within the park. OHV use is a legal use allowed by the park's General Development Plan (CDPR 1975) and San Luis Obispo County's Local Coastal Plan (LCP; San Luis Obispo County 2009, 2007, 1989). Some land tracts within Oceano Dunes SVRA are currently owned by the County (commonly referred to as the La Grande Tract). The County's LCP does include a map (commonly referred to as Figure 4; San Luis Obispo County 1989) showing the County lands as a buffer area closed to OHV. When the Coastal Commission certified the County's LCP in 1984, the LCP reflected in general the conditions of Oceano Dunes SVRA's Coastal Development Permit 4-82-300, which allows for OHV use on the County-owned land. Oceano Dunes SVRA operates the County-owned land for OHV use consistent with the park's SVRA designation and in conformance with an operating agreement with the County. The proposed special event locations, Base Camp and Competition Hill (Figure 2), would occur respectively at Post 4.5 and between Posts 7 and 8 near the Sand Highway do not affect the County-owned portion of Oceano Dunes SVRA; however, the special event is consistent with the designated use of the County land and would not cause a significant conflict with the LCP. The event does not propose a change in the overall timing or nature of the motorized recreation that would typically occur in the park during the event weekend.

c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The project site is not located in an area covered by an HCP or natural community conservation plan. An HCP is being developed for Pismo State Beach/Oceano Dunes SVRA; however, it has not yet been finalized.

3.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local -general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.11.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact (Responses a – b). No locally important mineral resources are designated at this site in the San Luis Obispo County General Plan. The proposed special event would not affect any known mineral resources of regional or local importance.

3.12 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.12.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Expose persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

No Impact. The event would not result in additional street legal or OHVs within the SVRA beyond the current use limits. All sound restrictions governing OHVs would remain in place for the event.

b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No Impact. The proposed event would not generate or expose people to excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. Groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels are typically caused by blasting or pile driving. No blasting, pile driving, or similar activities would be required to erect card tables and related temporary structures.

c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

No Impact. The event is temporary and would not generate substantial noise or create a permanent source of noise.

d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Huckfest event would involve up to 25 participating vehicles and possibly 1,000 camping vehicles and 2,200 day use vehicles as event spectators. This visitor level is not a substantial increase above visitor levels occurring at the park on a typical summer weekend day and would not result in a substantial increase in noise levels experienced at the park.

e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The nearest airport to the project site is the Oceano County Airport, located over one mile north of the event. The project would not expose people to excessive noise levels associated with use of the Oceano County Airport.

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The proposed project is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

3.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.13.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The project would not induce population growth in the community of Oceano or its environs. The project consists of a temporary event to be held on a single day within an SVRA, and no permanent population or housing would be generated as a result of the project. The project would not add any new permanent residents to the area.

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact (Responses b – c). The project would not affect existing housing at the SVRA, as there is no housing at the project site. The closest residence is over one mile from the project site.

3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
v) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.14.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

1. Fire protection?

2. Police protection?

3. Schools?

4. Parks?

5. Other public facilities?

No Impact. The OHMVR Division provides primary emergency response services within the SVRA. The event would not create a permanent increase the need for fire or police protection services or create an adverse impact on such services. The Huckfest special event would hire law enforcement and medical personnel to staff the event as needed per recommendations of local agencies. The project would not result in increased number of students served by local schools or affect parks, as it comprises a single-day special event in a SVRA and would not bring in new residents. No new public facilities would be required to accommodate the event or event visitors.

3.15 RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.15.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. The project would not increase the visitor use of ODSRVA or nearby community parks in Oceano or generate demand for recreational facilities. The project would limit access to the SVRA south of Post 2 to event ticket holders only on Friday and Saturday, October 17 and 18, 2014. Non-event beach access would remain available north of Post 2 during the event. Pedestrian and equestrian access would remain unchanged.

b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The project does not include recreational facilities beyond what already exist in the SVRA or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The erection of temporary structures associated with event, such as spectator fencing and vendor tables would have no effect on the environment.

3.16 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.16.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

No Impact (Responses a – b). Oceano Dunes SVRA is subject to strict visitor quotas, including 1,000 camping units (a camping unit is defined as one street legal motorized vehicle registered for overnight use) per day and 2,580 street legal and 1,720 OHVs per day for day use. The overall vehicle limit for day use is thus limited to 4,300 vehicles (of this 60 percent street legal and 40 percent non-street legal). These visitor quotas would remain in effect during the event. Up to 25 vehicles may participant in the event. CDPR estimates possibly 11,400 spectators based on the sale of 800 camping passes and 2,200 day use passes and a visitor rate of 3.8 persons per vehicle. The event would not substantially increase the number of vehicles or visitors to the park and would not increase the number of vehicles or visitors beyond park limits.

Event ticket sales and access as described in Section 2.3.6 have been designed for quick access into the event area in order to avoid traffic backups at entrance stations. Event tickets would be pre-purchased and placed on vehicle windshields. Tickets would be bar coded for quick scanning and event admittance. The event entrance gates would occur at Post 2 rather than the beach entrance stations at Grand Avenue and Pier Avenue so that vehicle queues occur on the beach and not on public streets.

Signage directing vehicles to the event would be posted on Grand and Pier Avenues. Signage would also be placed on State Route 1 in consultation with Caltrans.

c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No Impact. The proposed special event would not affect air traffic patterns.

d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The proposed special event is consistent with activities within an SVRA. The event organizers would use radio communications between drivers and spotters to ensure the runway ramp and landing area are clear and safe before each vehicle jumps. Fencing would be erected to keep spectators at least 200 feet away from the ramp and landing area for safety purposes. The speed limits in effect at Oceano Dunes SVRA would apply to the event participants. The Huckfest would not create any traffic hazards.

e. Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The proposed special event would not affect emergency access. All entrances are required to allow emergency vehicles access at any time.

f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

No Impact. The proposed special event would not conflict with adopted alternative transportation policies. The event would not prevent pedestrians, cyclists, or equestrians from accessing Oceano Dunes SVRA.

3.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.17.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact (Responses a – e). No water uses are proposed that would exceed waste water treatment requirements. Additional toilet facilities would be brought in to the event base camp and event arena at Competition Hill to adequately serve visitors. The project would not require construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities. This project consists of a two-day special event taking place at the beach and in the dunes and would not affect storm water drainage or facilities. No new water supplies or entitlements would be needed; there would be no expansion of existing water use associated with this project.

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact (Responses f – g). The project consists of a two-day special event and would not result in new housing or businesses that would require permanent year-round garbage collection. Event organizers would be responsible for picking up all garbage, markers, and event banners following the event. Garbage would be deposited in main dumpsters already maintained at Oceano Dunes SVRA, the number and capacity of which have been designed to accommodate users on a busy weekend. Oceano Dunes SVRA manages trash collection in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and statutes.

3.18 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the efforts of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.18.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

No Impact. As discussed above, all participants would be paid camping or day use visitors, all vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors, all speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA would apply to event participants, and all pre-existing Oceano Dunes SVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event. The proposed project would thus not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, significantly impact fish or wildlife species or their habitat, adversely affect plant or animal communities, or affect historic or other cultural resources.

b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the efforts of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

No Impact. The project would not have environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The proposed event would be very short-term in duration and would not change usage at the SVRA during a busy summer weekend.

c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Huckfest event could result in a slight increase in OHV activity occurring within the open riding area of Oceano Dunes SVRA. Any increase in noise, or increase in PM_{10} emissions or greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the Huckfest vehicle activity would be negligible. The project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly.

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APPENDIX A

TECHNICAL INSPECTION CHECKLIST

2014 Huckfest
Preliminary Technical Inspection Requirements

Competitor Technical Inspection.

Dirt Cinema LLC hereby holds all competitors to these technical inspection standards to be carried out by a Dirt Cinema LLC representative prior to being permitted to compete in the event. Failure to adhere to the inspection requirements herein will result in immediate disqualification.

1. **NETS** must cover from “A” pillar to “B” pillar, from top “roof” to bottom “top of body panel”.

2. **CAGE** must be made of minimum 1 1⁄2” x .095” mild steel or chromoly “D.O.M.”. Must have corner gussets on main cage, all welds MUST be 360 degrees. A head rest IS required on seat or on cage. Different classes require larger wall and tubing size.

3. **HARNESSES** must be NO older than 3 years from date of present race. Two single shoulder harnesses are required, NO “V” or “Y” type shoulder harness. Double “D” rings are required unless harnesses are sewn on and/or bolted on. NO twist type latches, must be a “lever latch” type release.

4. **FUEL CELL** or bladder fuel cell/ bladder must be in a fully surrounded smooth skinned casing. The casing must be made of 20 gage steel, .060 aluminum or .125 marlex. NO MAGNESIUM. Fuel cell must be vented, vent hose must loop passed both sides of cell and the end of vent hose must extend passed the bottom of cell. Fuel cap must be a “Quick fill” or a “twist type” non-vented type.

5. **DRIVE SHAFT** drive shaft safety loop is required on all vehicles with a drive shaft. Retainer loop could be made of .25” x 2” steel or a 2” wide nylon webbing both securely bolted to frame.

6. **SHOCK ABSORBERS & BUMP STOPS** There must be at least one shock absorber per wheel in working condition at the start of the race. Suspension bump stops must be of the solid type unless class rules allow movable bump stops or secondary suspension.

7. **SECONDARY SUSPENSION** includes leaf springs, torsion bars, coil-over shocks, air bags, haga balls or any other item, other than shock absorbers and the stock concept suspension system that came with the vehicle, that changes the wheel rate at any point in its travel. Air shocks will be considered secondary suspension when charged to 200 psi in their fully extended state and the static pressure exceeds 300 psi when fully compressed. Movable bump stops will be considered secondary suspension when they contact the suspension unit more than 4 inches before the end of the wheels upwards travel.

8. **HELMETS** Snell approved with the "**SA2000**" / "**SA2005**" / "**SA2010**" Snell label inside the helmet. Straps must have D-ring fasteners only. No snaps or velcro will be permitted. The interior and exterior areas of the helmet must be free of defects (i.e., the padding must be in good condition and the exterior of the helmet must not be damaged).

9. **PROTECTIVE DRIVING SUITS** must be clean single piece with no holes or rips. recommended are a multi-layered single piece driving suit. Additionally, these suits must be fire resistant, predominantly comprised of NOMEX or equivalent material with a SFI certification rating of 3.2/A5 or greater. A minimum of a two-layer firesuit, fire resistant gloves and footwear are very highly recommended. Dirt Cinema LLC highly recommends that each fire suit be labeled on the upper right chest with the entrant's full name, blood type, allergies or other important medical information.

10. **FIREWALLS** are required for all vehicles where a fuel cell is used. Normal location would be between driver's compartment and fuel cell.

The items on this Tech list will be enforced at the 2014 Hucktour hosted by Santa Maria Speedway event.

APPENDIX B

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
California Department of Parks and Recreation

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
TERMS AND CONDITIONS*

Special Event Permits, when approved, shall be issued subject to the following provisions:

1. All activities and arrangements for advance preparations within the above named unit, shall be at the direction of the District Superintendent or authorized representative.

2. Rules and regulations of the Department of Parks and Recreation unless specifically exempted or otherwise noted shall be observed by the permittee, employees, agents, or contractors.

3. The only special activities granted permittee herein are those which are listed in writing on the permit.

4. No structures or sets may be constructed unless specifically provided for and described in writing, no digging or excavation is permitted, and no shrubbery or trees are to be cut, trimmed or injured. No additions, alterations, modification, or decorations may be affixed to any Department of Parks and Recreation facility without specific written approval of the District Superintendent.

5, Fires will not be permitted except upon the specific written approval of the District Superintendent and under specific direction.

6. Vehicles under the authority of the permittee will be parked in areas designated by the District Superintendent.

7. Permittee will control all traffic and vehicles associated with the event as directed by the District Superintendent.

8. Permittee will maintain the permitted area in a clean and sanitary condition and will restore the area to the condition in which it was received to the satisfaction of the State.

9. Permittee will repair or be billed at the discretion of the State any and all damage to the park unit or any State property which was a result of permittee's activities. State will be the sole judge of the extent of damage and the extent of repairs required to remedy the damage. All repairs will be performed to the satisfaction of the State.

10. The State may require at its discretion, the following special conditions:

    a) Fire control measures and additional firefighting equipment to be furnished by permittee as required by the District Superintendent.

    b) First-aid service to be supplied by permittee, including ambulance service, doctors or nurses.

    c) Additional police protection and/or traffic control personnel. Policing of the event will be provided by permittee and at own expense.

    d) Parking arrangements required for permittee's operating personnel.

e) Additional sanitary facilities as required by the District Superintendent. Sanitary facilities over and above those furnished by State may be provided by permittee and at own expense.

f) The permittee will be charged a fee based on the number of hours and job classification of State personnel required to meet any special condition.

All special conditions and associated fees will be listed on the permit.

11. Unless otherwise specified on the Special Event Permit, the State agrees to provide the following services, if available or appropriate.

a) Maintain public restrooms.

b) Provide fresh water.

c) Provide electricity.

d) Provide garbage cans and remove refuse.

e) Clean all areas prior to occupancy by permittee.

12. The interest of permittee created by this agreement may be subject to property taxation. Permittee agrees to pay any possessory interest tax or any other tax levied on such interest and to indemnify the State from any damage or loss arising, by reason of such tax or Revenue Taxation Code Section 107.6.

13. Permittee may be charged a permit fee in addition to normal park fees, based on costs incurred by the State, size and scope of the event, and prevailing fees for commercial facilities in the locality.

14. Depending on circumstances and probability of occurrence, permittee may be charged a damage deposit as determined by the District Superintendent. Costs for damage repair and any fines or penalties for noncompliance with permit conditions will be deducted from this deposit, The District Superintendent shall determine if all or only a portion of the deposit is refundable.

15. The District Superintendent may terminate without prior notice any special event activity when it is necessary for the safety and enjoyment of the public for the protection of resources, or for violation of any rules or regulations of the Department of Parks and Recreation or conditions of this permit. In addition, any Special Event Permit may be cancelled without notice in the event of disaster or unforeseen emergency.

16. It is an express condition of this permit that the State, its officers, agents and employees shall be free from any and all liabilities and claims for damages and/or suit for or by reason of any death of or injury or injuries to any person or persons or damages to property of any kind whatsoever, whether the person or property of permittee. its agents or employees, or third persons, from any cause or causes whatsoever while in or upon said premises or any part thereof during the term of this permit or occasioned by any occupancy or use of said premises or any activity carried on by permittee in connection therewith; and permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and to save harmless the State, its officers, agents and employees from all liabilities charges, expenses (including counsel fees) and costs on account of or by reason of any such

deaths, injury, liabilities, claims, suits, or losses however occurring or damage growing out of same.

17. For events having greater potential hazard or liability to the State than is incurred through typical daily park activities, permittee will be required to provide the District Superintendent with a certificate of insurance with required endorsements as proof of liability insurance coverage. The policy will cover the period of the permit and will be in an amount no less than one of the following as determined by the District Superintendent:

    - Public Liability $300,000 each person, $500,000 each occurrence. Property Damage Liability and Products Damage Liability $200,000; OR
    - Combined single limit (CSL) $500,000 per occurrence; OR
    - Combined single limit (CSL) $1,000,000 per occurrence.

Insurance policies shall be underwritten to the satisfaction of the State and shall contain the following special endorsement:

State of California, its officers, employees, and servants are included as additional insured but only insofar as operations under this contract or permit are concerned;

The insurer will not cancel or reduce the insured's coverage during the period that this permit is in effect or without 30 days prior written notice, whichever is shorter, to State.

This cancellation provision shall not be construed in derogation of the duty of the permittee to furnish insurance during the entire term of the permit.

18. Contacts relating to the insurance policy and payment of fee and in regard to the permit generally may be made through the District Superintendent.

**Source: DPR Form 246, Special Event Permit Application*

APPENDIX C

2014 NESTING SEASON MANAGEMENT PLAN
CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN AND WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER
California Department of Parks and Recreation, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

State of California • Natural Resources Agency **Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor***

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION **Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret), *Director***

Oceano Dunes District
340 James Way, Suite 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(805) 773-7170

March 27, 2014

Steve Henry, Assistant Field Supervisor
Fish and Wildlife Service
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003

Dr. Jeff Single, Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Game
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Re: 2014 Nesting Season Management Plan for Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area in San Luis Obispo County

Dear Mr. Henry and Dr. Single:

I am pleased to provide a copy of the 2014 Nesting Season Management Plan for Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. We prepare this strategy each year in coordination with your respective agencies on our western snowy plover and California least tern management.

The 2014 strategy is essentially the same as the 2013 strategy which your agencies reviewed last year. There is one change that will facilitate rare plant surveys to support the development of our Habitat Conservation Plan on pages 11 and 12. This strategy will allow us to continue to operate Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area while avoiding take of listed species.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me at the number above.

Sincerely;

Ronnie Glick
Senior Environmental Scientist

cc: Deb Hillyard, Staff Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 1388
Morro Bay, CA 93443

2014 NESTING SEASON MANAGEMENT PLAN
TO AVOID TAKE OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN AND WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER AT OCEANO DUNES STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
February 2014

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

On March 21, 2001 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Oceano Dunes District State Vehicular Recreation Area's (ODSVRA) incidental take authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act expired. The incidental take authorization with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) was not renewed. The ACOE determined that the activity being conducted at the ODSVRA was no longer under ACOE jurisdiction. Therefore ODSVRA lost the federal nexus needed to renew the Section 7 permit.

The biological opinion of the Section 7 permit had authorized incidental take of two-federally listed species: the California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) (LETE) and the western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) (SNPL). Both birds have documented nesting and foraging habitat at ODSVRA. The Biological and Conference Opinion for the Section 7 (dated January 25, 1996) provides a list of rules governing the recreational activities at the ODSVRA; program elements of a SNPL and LETE monitoring program; reasonable and prudent measures necessary and appropriate to minimize incidental take; and additional terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures.

ODSVRA has been diligently implementing the terms of the biological opinion since its issuance. As anticipated by the biological opinion, some incidental take of SNPL and LETE has taken place; however measures undertaken at ODSVRA have resulted in the overall protection of the bird populations within park boundaries, which has contributed to the overall recovery of both SNPL and LETE at the ODSVRA.

The absence of ACOE jurisdiction has left ODSVRA without incidental take authorization. ODSVRA / DPR has met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to address the situation and to determine the best course of action to resolve conflicts between listed species and ongoing off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. At present DPR believes that it can continue to operate the SVRA and provide protection (attempting no take) of the listed species through the implementation of various protections, monitoring, and management measures as described below.

The measures following are intended to be carried out throughout the 2014 SNPL and LETE nesting season. A subset of these will also be used after the nesting season to assure that SNPL and LETE are afforded protection during the non-nesting season.

Measures to be implemented during the non-nesting season (October 1 through February 28) will consist of:

- Weekly monitoring for location of SNPL within the ODSVRA
- Continued enforcement of dog leash laws
- Continued enforcement of the posted 15 MPH vehicle speed limits on the beach.

ODSVRA/DPR has contracted with TRA Environmental to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In the absence of the HCP and to continue operations under the "no-take" scenario; ODSVRA has been working closely with the USFWS, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to develop yearly management plans for the LETE and SNPL. ODSVRA meets with USFWS and DFW prior to the start of each nesting season to map out distinctive measures for this management plan.

PROTECTION MEASURES AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

Specific protection measures and prescribed management protocols for implementation by DPR as contained within US Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion (1-8-95-F/C-17) prepared under Section 7 consultation with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the issuance of Regional General Permit No. 42 (Corps of Engineers File No. 95-50035-TAW), dated January 25, 1996; FWS permit No. PRT 815214; FWS "*Exclosure Protocols For Snowy Plover Nests"*, dated January, 1994 and July, 1999; and California Department of Fish and Wildlife letter concerning DPR management protocols for the avoidance of take of LETE within ODSVRA, dated May 8, 2001, and additional measures added in 2002, 2003 and 2006 are incorporated by reference and are components of this plan. The following detail describes modifications, changes, or additions to the management protocols contained in the above referenced documents. Additional measures listed are derived from ODSVRA monitoring of the prior nesting season. These measures are listed as recommendations in the annual CDPR report written in consultation with Point Blue Conservation Science (Formerly PRBO Conservation Science/PRBO). ODSVRA / DPR oversee the SNPL and LETE program using data collected by staff and consultants. Through these consultations and data collection ODSVRA reviews all recommendations and implements what is reasonable and sound given all issues. ODSVRA continues to implement management actions that will ensure the highest extent of protection to both the SNPL and LETE. ODSVRA is responsible for the management of these two species within its boundaries. All measures will be operational and in place by March 1, 2014, unless otherwise noted or discussed with appropriate wildlife agencies.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- The management measures and protocols contained in this proposal represent the best management practices at this time. However, adaptive management practices may be employed in the protection efforts for SNPL and LETE during the course of the 2014

nesting season. Adaptive management will be used to provide management flexibility to best afford protection for these species. Program adaptations causing initiation of changes of these proposed management actions could result from the following:

- Observations and data collected by ODSVRA resource management staff, which monitors SNPL and LETE, might indicate protocols, which are proposed herein as ineffective.

- USFWS or DFW may indicate more recent findings on species management.

- Recognition and response to currently unforeseen threats to the species, or other factors.

ROLE OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

United States Fish and Wildlife Service: USFWS staff is available to provide quick and timely responses to informational requests by DPR on aspects of the plan that need immediate action.

During the course of the 2014 nesting season, the USFWS may recommend protocol alterations or modifications for the management and protection of SNPL and LETE. USFWS agrees to consult with DPR to coordinate and gain concurrence on any new management protocol changes that may affect SNPL and LETE.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife: DFW may recommend protocol alterations or modifications for the management and protection of LETE during the course of the 2014 LETE nesting season. USFWS and DPR have agreed to consult with DFW on any modifications suggested or required by DFW.

EXCLOSURES FOR SNPL AND LETE

- The following seasonal exclosures totaling approximately 300 acres will be maintained throughout the 2014 SNPL and LETE nesting season:

Arroyo Grande Creek/
Post 1.5 Area Exclosure …… Posted and signed. Will be fenced if a nest is established. No successful plover nesting in 2001, and 2010. No nest attempts in 2002-2004; 2006 – 2009; 2011-2013; and (1) successful LETE nest in 2005. ODSVRA staff will monitor area frequently. If a nest is found in this area a 100 foot single nest exclosure will be erected.

Southern Exclosure ……..…250 acres. 2x4 no-climb fencing, second layer of predator fencing, and posted.

Oso Flaco Natural Area...……..1-mile stretch of fore dunes closed by 2x4 no-climb and a second layer of predator fencing south of the camping/riding area and symbolic fence and sign postings, approximately 62 acres.

EXCLOSURES for SNPL and LETE

Additional exclosures will be erected and maintained based upon SNPL nesting activities as described below.

- The size of individual SNPL / LETE exclosures will be constructed with a minimum 200 foot diameter. Fencing material will consist of 2x4 inch galvanized wire mesh fence fabric, steel "t" posts every 15 feet and intermediate line posts as needed.

- When individual SNPL / LETE nests are established outside of the existing seasonal exclosures, within the riding area, are located within 500 feet of the established seasonal exclosure, fencing will be erected to enlarge the seasonal exclosure so as to encompass the nest site. Fencing so erected will be placed a minimum distance of 100 feet away from the nest site. Fencing will be extended westerly to the surf line if evaluation by ODSVRA staff and/or USFWS/DFW determine SNPL / LETE chick travel corridor needs require such an action, thereby affording additional protection to SNPL.

- When two or more nests sites are located within 500 feet of each other, and are 500 feet or more away from the seasonal exclosure they will be encompassed into a new large seasonal exclosure. Seasonal exclosures so erected will include fencing that extends to the surf line if chick travel corridors establish that need, so as to provide a secure travel corridor for foraging activity for SNPL chicks. Fencing for such new seasonal exclosures will maintain a minimum distance of 100 feet from nest sites.

- If a single SNPL / LETE nest is established further than 500 feet from a seasonal exclosure with no other nest(s) located within 500 feet, ODSVRA will erect a single nest exclosure fence as described above. If feasible a westerly travel corridor may be erected to provide safe foraging for chicks.

- The bottom edge of wire mesh fencing will be buried 6 – 8 inches deep at installation of all exclosures to prevent or discourage predator access inside the exclosure.

- If a SNPL/ LETE nest is established within 150 feet of a restroom facility, the following protocols will be implemented:

    1. Permanent Restroom Buildings will be closed to public use and exclosure

fencing will surround and isolate the restroom to prevent public use.

2. Chemical toilets will be relocated to a minimum distance of 300 feet from any nest site.

- If a SNPL or LETE nest is initiated inside the seasonal exclosure and within 100 feet from the exclosure fence, staff will install additional fencing to maintain a perimeter of a minimum of 100 feet from the riding and camping area to the nest. These "bumpouts" will be monitored regularly. If an incubating bird is disturbed by recreational activity, the bumpout will be increased in size as needed. All nests are monitored for disturbance and any nest that is disturbed by regular recreational activity may receive a bumpout.

- 10'x10' nest exclosures, as called for in the ODSVRA predator management plan, may be used if deemed necessary by staff for SNPL nest protection. 2x4 steel no-climb fence will be used and 5/8 by 5/8 inch nylon mesh netting will be placed on top. Fence will be buried to a depth of 6-8 inches.

- Miniature exclosures measuring approximately 3 foot by 3 foot were first used at ODSVRA during the 2010 nesting season. These are constructed with 2x4 inch steel non-climb fence (with a top of the same material) and buried 8 inches deep. These mini-exclosures are if deemed necessary for SNPL nest protection. Mini-exclosures can be used interchangeably with 10 x 10 foot exclosures based on site characteristics and other factors.

- In the event that LETE chicks are observed traveling outside of a single nest exclosure, the exclosure will be increased in size. Small mesh fencing or silt fencing may be used to reduce LETE travel outside the exclosure. The exclosure will be increased as needed until LETE are no longer travelling out of the exclosure. DPR will consult with DFW for agreement and approval if the appropriate setback distances can not be achieved as a result of operational needs.

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE NON-OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE AREA OF ODSVRA

- SNPL nesting activity occurs within the non-off highway vehicle use area of the ODSVRA in Oso Flaco Lake Area. This area will be monitored regularly during the nesting season. Individual exclosures or symbolic fencing may be erected around nests when in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist and/or monitors the exclosure or symbolic fencing is necessary to ensure the protection of nest sites from human disturbance or predation. Single nest exclosures within the Oso Flaco area will be at minimum 30- foot radius but will not be as large as within the riding area of ODSVRA due to the terrain limitations. Single nest exclosures in Oso Flaco will be erected at the 2 -egg stage of the clutch to help reduce abandonment threat.

- Symbolic fencing will be erected at the terminus end of the boardwalk trail at the beach to direct visitors to the wet sand area of the beach and away from potential nesting and chick rearing areas.

- Signs explaining SNPL natural history and protection measures in effect will be posted for visitor information and education.

- A large seasonal exclosure will be used at Oso Flaco, north of the public access boardwalk. It will be constructed of 2x4 no-climb fence buried to a depth of 6-8 inches. Approximate size will be 62 acres.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SPECIFIC TO CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN

- DPR will implement provisions and measures agreed to for LETE management and protection that are contained within a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from DFW to DPR that is in effect for the 2014 nesting season. ODSVRA in consultation with DFW Wildlife Biologists are confident the measures mentioned within this take avoidance document, if faithfully implemented at ODSVRA, will avoid take of this State listed, fully protected species. ODSVRA proposes that these same measures will be adequate to assure USFWS that there will be no take of LETE in the operation of ODSVRA during the 2014 nesting season.

- The footbridge hand railing at Oso Flaco Lake is used by LETE for perching after chicks have fledged and when adult birds are teaching fledglings to fish in the lake. The visiting public will be provided with information about the LETE presence and activity at Oso Flaco Lake, and will be provided with guidelines to avoid disturbance of the activities of LETE. If, in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist or monitors, visitor activities are significantly disrupting LETE behavior, the footbridge may be closed to public use, or types of public use on the boardwalk may be temporarily prohibited until the LETE have left the lake area.

- Banding of LETE chicks will continue at ODSVRA for 2014. A permitted Master Bander from Point Blue Conservation Science has been contracted to perform this duty.

- Tern shelters have been used and evaluated since 2007 and a sufficient number of tern chicks used the shelters to justify their continued use. DPR will continue to place driftwood and native plants throughout the seasonally exclosed area to serve as natural shelter.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

- All first time visitors will be provided with a flyer or pamphlet describing the natural history of the species, their status under endangered species acts, recovery efforts in

place within the SVRA and a list or description of activities either prohibited or desired by the public that serve to protect both LETE and SNPL.

- All first time visitors entering the ODSVRA by vehicle will be provided with a copy of the ODSVRA park brochure that contains information on the federally and state listed status of the SNPL and LETE, and management actions in place to aid in the recovery effort of these species.

- All visitors entering the ODSVRA by vehicle to camp will be offered plastic garbage bags and will be informed they are to haul their trash out of the ODSVRA at the end of their visit. Visitor participation in reducing or eliminating trash within the SVRA will discourage predators from frequenting the visitor use area and thus reduce the likelihood of predation on SNPL and LETE.

- Trash dumpsters will be provided for the deposit of trash bags near the OHV staging area, near Post 2. The location of the trash dumpsters will be changed as necessary to avoid disturbance to any nearby active LETE or SNPL nests.

- Interpretive panels describing the LETE and SNPL population status and threats to their survival will be posted at ODSVRA Safety Center located at the entrance to Sand Highway, at Oso Flaco Lake and at the Pier Avenue and Grand Avenue entrances ramps to the SVRA.

- 7 days a week, 24-hours a day the ODSVRA AM radio station will again be used for the 2014 nesting season. The radio station will broadcast visitor safety, park rules and regulations and information on the SNPL and LETE including actions that visitors can take to help assure the survival of the species. The radio station will be updated with new measures taken in the 2014 season.

- Visitors entering ODSVRA by vehicle with a dog will be provided with an informational handout about the ill effects of unleashed dogs on wildlife. Pedestrian visitors with dogs who have not entered the recreation area by vehicle will be provided the same pamphlet by ODSVRA staff.

SNPL AND LETE BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

- During anticipated high visitor use periods as determined by historic visitor attendance records, e.g., Memorial Day Weekend, July 4th Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, monitoring staff will provide extended hours of monitoring within the off highway vehicle use area of the ODSVRA.

- Monitoring will take place daily for a minimum of 8 hours per day to enable a better identification of potential human use related threats to SNPL and LETE and to summon law enforcement assistance if needed to prevent or eliminate any human use

related threats to the species. Monitors will be those individuals approved by USFWS for this function.

- Point Blue Conservation Science has been contracted by DPR to furnish a master bander for the 2014 SNPL and LETE nesting season. The PRBO bander will be responsible for the banding of all SNPL and LETE chicks, "floating eggs" of SNPL, and if determined necessary, to band SNPL adults. The PRBO bander will be in consultation with and under the direction of the Senior Environmental Scientist assigned to ODSVRA. The PRBO bander will assist in the preparation of a written end of nesting season report for OSVSRA. The banding of newly hatched SNPL / LETE chicks will follow protocols approved by USFWS and DFW. PRBO bander will report all banding data and records per guidelines established by USFWS and PRBO.

- During holiday periods, one (1) monitor will be assigned the specific duty during daylight and evening hours of ensuring that no unauthorized entry is made into the north end of the large southern seasonal exclosure.

- Monitors will select and track SNPL / LETE chicks/broods hatched from any area within the riding area (single nest exclosures) that is not within a seasonal exclosure to determine travel routes and travel patterns associated with foraging and exploration. Information gathered by such monitoring will be used during the 2014 nesting season and subsequent nesting seasons to establish additions to or reconfiguration of existing exclosures, to establish the need for fenced travel corridors, or serve to modify other measures to allow better protection for SNPL. Monitors will attempt to follow the broods if and when leaving the single nest exclosures, identify threats to brood movement or safety, obtain assistance as necessary from SVRA patrol staff, and will oversee the erection of signs and/or symbolic fencing to assure brood safety until they reach a non vehicle use area of the SVRA. Should the broods engage in foraging activity in the wrack line near these exclosures, vehicle traffic flow will be diverted or regulated to allow safe movement of the brood.

- ODSVRA does and will continue to participate in the Region 5 working group for SNPL recovery.

- A predator management plan will be implemented again in the 2014 nesting season as in previous seasons (2002 – 2013) to address predation issues at ODSVRA.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

- All protocols for maintenance activities and maintenance vehicle movement and routing contained in the biological opinion remain in effect. In 2014, ODSVRA is proposing to cease conducting surveys for plover nests specifically prior to maintenance activities on the sand ramps. Over the past ten years, ODSVRA has

been conducting surveys prior to sand ramp maintenance and no nests or birds have been recorded. There is too much visitor use activity at the sand ramps for these areas to be considered viable nesting or roosting areas. ODSVRA will suspend surveys for nests specifically prior to ramp maintenance. However, these areas will be regularly inspected a minimum of once per day associated with the regular monitoring activities within the riding area. During these daily surveys (also called the lower transect), the park is surveyed from Pismo Creek to the large seasonal exclosure to identify snowy plover individuals and nests. The sand ramps will be covered in this daily survey.

- At least one vehicle or trailer will be available daily throughout the 2014 nesting season with all tools and equipment necessary to immediately construct nest exclosure(s) for SNPL or LETE when requested by monitoring staff.

- Maintenance staff will carry trash bags in each vehicle and provide trash bags to visitors for the removal of trash and litter from visitor use areas.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

- State Park peace officers will provide focused enforcement of trespass into the nesting exclosures, the dog leash laws, the posted 15 MPH beach speed limit, fire work violations, kite flying violations and litter violations throughout the 2014 nesting season. During periods of anticipated high visitor use, additional ranger staff will be dedicated solely to this focused law enforcement function so as to eliminate threats to SNPL or LETE associated with those visitor activities.

- State Park peace officers will respond to requests by monitors for assistance with SNPL and LETE protection and security. The enforcement of laws affecting the safety of SNPL and LETE will be the highest non-emergency priority for law enforcement focus and action within the ODSVRA.

- During anticipated high visitor attendance periods, State Park peace officer staff will provide additional enforcement focus on ensuring that the integrity of exclosures is maintained and that no trespass occurs with SNPL or LETE exclosures.

- On weekends State Park Rangers will diligently peruse the Oso Flaco hard fenced and symbolically fenced area for trespass and other violations.

- Sundays through Thursdays, except for holiday periods, a minimum of two (2) State Park Ranger/peace officers will be on duty and available from 0700 through 2000 hrs each day to respond to:

    1. Requests for assistance by monitors for the protection of SNPL and LETE
    2. Exclosure trespass violations
    3. Enforce dog leash laws

4. Enforce the posted 15 MPH beach speed limit
5. Firework violations
6. Kite flying violations
7. Litter violations

- During non-holiday weekends (Friday and Saturday), a minimum of two (2) State Park peace officers will be on duty and available from 0600 through 2400 hrs each day to enforce the above mentioned violations

- During major holiday periods State Park peace officers will be on duty 24 hrs/day. From 0700 to 2000 and a minimum of three (3) ranger/peace officers will be on duty at any one time. From 2000 to 0200 a minimum of three (3) ranger/peace officers will be on duty at any one time. From 0200 to 0700 two (2) ranger/peace officers will be on duty. During mid day periods, when visitor attendance is highest, as many as four (4) ranger/peace officers will be on duty. During all shifts ranger/peace officers will be available to enforce the above listed violations.

- During daylight hours on major holiday periods, one (1) State Park peace officers will be assigned the primary duty of patrolling the beach, including the nest exclosure areas and ensuring that no entry is made into exclosures established for LETE and SNPL nest site protection.

- On July 4th, State Park Visitor Service Staff, or State Park Volunteers will be assigned to the large southern exclosure to help quell the use of fireworks over the area, which could endanger nest success.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ORDERS

- The District Superintendent of ODSVRA will issue orders:

    1) Establishing a buffer zone around individual nest exclosures prohibiting the camping, stopping or parking of vehicles within 100 ft of the exclosure perimeter fencing
    2) Prohibition of kite flying south of the Pier Ave. ramp during the SNPL and LETE nesting season
    3) Prohibition of fireworks
    4) No entrance into any signed or closed area within the Oso Flaco Natural Area, and
    5) No dogs or horses allowed in the Oso Flaco Natural Area.

- Temporary closure of the Oso Flaco Lake footbridge may be made if, in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist and or the biological monitors, human activity at the footbridge is adversely affecting least tern adult or fledgling feeding activities at the lake.

RARE PLANT MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN 2014

DPR has been preparing a HCP to cover a host of state and federally listed species within Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach. Information on the distribution of certain listed plant species is out of date and needs to be updated to provide the most accurate information to wildlife agencies. In particular, populations of surf thistle (*Cirsium rhothophilum*) and beach spectaclepod (*Dithyrea maritima*) are known from North and South Oso Flaco. It is not possible to fully map the distribution of these plant species outside the nesting season for snowy plover and least tern. The beach spectaclepod, in particular, is an annual plant that may not sufficiently germinate by March 1 and is typically dessicated and difficult to identify after September 30. The only way to collect accurate information on the distribution and health of beach spectaclepod is to conduct surveys during its likely flowering period in April – May.

DPR proposes to conduct surveys in North and South Oso Flaco during the most likely flowering period for beach spectaclepod and surf thistle during the 2014 nesting season.

DPR proposes the following protocols to allow these surveys to continue while eliminating or minimizing the potential for take to nesting snowy plover and least tern:

1. A team of two biologists will conduct these surveys. One member of the team will be a skilled botanist with experience in identifying the target plant species. The second member of the team will be a skilled snowy plover monitor listed on the List of Authorized Individuals for Recovery Permit TE-815214-7, Category 2, Individuals authorized to independently conduct population surveys, locate and monitor nests, and erect and monitor fence and nest exclosures including a chick fence.

2. Prior to conducting botanical surveys, the team will review records of all known nesting sites in the survey area. No surveys will be conducted within 150 feet of known nesting sites until the nest fates are determined (hatch or fail) and the brood and attending adult are known to have left the area. No surveys or walking within sight of nests will occur for nests that are close to hatch or newly hatched.

3. Surveys may be conducted in areas without known nests; however, the team will follow existing nest search protocols to identify new nests, breeding behavior, and the presence of adults tending broods.

4. If new nests, breeding behavior or adults tending broods are noted in an area, the team will make appropriate field notes and leave the area until the nest fates are determined or breeding/brooding activity is no longer occurring in the area.

5. Botanical surveys will take the minimum time necessary to avoid disturbance to breeding birds in the area. Surveys will be limited to

mapping plant populations, preliminary counts of individuals, notes on population health, notes on threats to population health, and other associated information. Botanical surveys should take no longer than 15 minutes at each site with a known population.

6. Walking surveys of the entire foredune complex in the North and South Oso Flaco areas will take the minimum time necessary to identify new, previously unmapped populations of target species.

7. All botanical surveys will be conducted under similar constraints as nest search surveys including during appropriate weather conditions, wind conditions, times when predator activity is not occurring, and other precautions as listed in the Federal recovery permit and the ODSVRA plover and tern monitoring protocol.

If these conditions are followed, DPR can collect critical information on rare plants that will support the completion of the HCP while minimizing or eliminating the threat to nesting plovers and terns that could result from surveys in the North and South Oso Flaco areas.

DPR 2013 SNPL AND LETE NESTING REPORT

DPR prepared a report in consultation with Point Blue Conservation Science entitled "Nesting of the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern at Oceano Dunes SVRA in 2013 Season". In the report were several recommendations regarding Monitoring, enhancement of available nesting habitat, enhancement of hatching success, fledging success, and winter survival.

ODSVRA is prepared to implement the recommended measures of the annual report and the subsequent recommendations of the Scientific Subcommittee, with the exception to implementation of year-round closures in any portion of the camping and riding area of the SVRA.

Attachments: Recommendation Section of DPR 2013 Nesting of the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover at ODSVRA.

Scientific Subcommittee recommendations 2013

NESTING OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN AND WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER AT OCEANO DUNES STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA 2013 SEASON

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue monitoring

Monitoring is critical for effective protection of nesting terns and plovers. As problems and threats arise for adult birds, nests, and chicks, timely information from monitoring can help guide appropriate management actions and evaluate their effectiveness. Monitoring efforts at ODSVRA should have adequate funding, resources, and flexibility to address anticipated problems (e.g., nesting failure, causes of chick loss, predator pressure) as well as unanticipated problems. Specific recommendations for monitoring are the following:

Continue banding least tern and snowy plover chicks

Continue banding least tern and snowy plover chicks to better understand chick behavior and factors promoting or threatening survival of chicks (e.g., feeding rates for tern chicks, foraging activity and movements of plover chicks, age and location of disappearance of different cohorts of chicks). Banding also provides a means to document fledging success. Without this information, the seasonal productivity of terns and plovers at ODSVRA would be unknown and management effectiveness could not be assessed. Additionally, bands provide an opportunity to gain insight into predator impacts on chicks and fledglings. Over time, banding of tern and plover chicks will provide information on natal site fidelity of terns and plovers fledged at ODSVRA, as well as migration to other sites.

Continue banding least tern chicks to individual

Beginning in 2006, least tern chicks were banded to allow individual chicks to be identified. This was done, in part, by placing one or two different colors of tape on the federal band, creating a unique combination for each chick. Banding to individual provides the opportunity to gain additional information that otherwise may not be obtainable, including:

1) providing the most accurate means to count the number of juveniles produced;
2) identifying if different areas within the colony are having different fledging success during a season;
3) identifying if broods hatching more than one chick are fledging more than one chick;
4) tracking individual chick and juvenile movement within the ODSVRA colony;
5) providing information on the length of stay of individual juveniles at the colony site after fledging;
6) tracking recruitment of juveniles into ODSVRA's breeding population; and
7) tracking movement of individuals to other colonies in California.

Banding to individual provides valuable information to assist in developing and assessing site management actions directed toward the recovery of the least tern.

Continue option to band adult snowy plovers

The occurrence of abandoned plover nests can raise concern about possible mortality of adult plovers. If elevated adult mortality rates occur or are suspected, it could prove beneficial to band certain adults. This would allow monitors to verify if mortality was taking place and possibly identify the causes.

Continue use of motion detector cameras for nest monitoring

There are many hours each day when monitoring staff or predator management specialists are either not present or not in a position to observe nest predation. In addition, predators may leave little or no evidence behind or tracks may be quickly erased by windblown sand before nest fates can be investigated. Photo infrared digital cameras with passive motion detector triggers (Reconyx PC900) were purchased in the latter part of the 2010 season to help identify and document snowy plover nest predators. They were tested and, with permission from USFWS, placed near a small number of plover nests in 2010-12 by staff members permitted by USFWS for this activity. Experimenting with the cameras continued in 2013. One of the challenges has been adapting the cameras that are normally used on large mammals to be sensitive enough to be triggered by movements of a small ground nesting bird. Because snowy plover movement was not triggering the cameras at certain settings, they were programmed to automatically take photos at regular intervals (one to five minutes) in addition to the motion detection setting. Stakes were used to position the cameras approximately eight to 12 inches above the ground to increase the camera's area of view. During the 2013 nesting season 14 snowy plover nests were selected for camera use (to date cameras have only been used on plover nests at this site but the permit does allow for cameras to be placed near least tern nests). No predation events were recorded. However, the nest cameras documented hatched and abandoned nest fates, nest fate dates, nest exchanges between male and female, and adult band combinations. It is recommended for 2014 to continue to use motion detector cameras for nest monitoring, continue to experiment with camera settings and placement, and train and permit additional monitoring staff as needed.

Continue to use an anemometer with data logger to record daily wind speeds and direction

A wind tower with wind speed and direction collected at two, seven and 10 meters above the ground has been located east of the 6 exclosure since June 2010. This station is intended to help record changes in wind speed and direction across a large area of the park and the Oso Flaco area and it has provided accurate data that matched the 2011 wind values collected from a smaller portable system owned by Parks (WindLog by RainWise Inc.). On-site information for daily average and high gust wind speeds aids in understanding the role of wind in egg loss. For 2014, it is recommended to continue gathering data using the wind tower.

Continue to provide adequate-sized bumpouts and single nest exclosures to better protect least tern and snowy plover nests in or close to the open riding area

Least tern and snowy plover nests inside the Southern Exclosure and located close to the north or east fence receive temporary additional fencing to create a buffer from recreational activities in the open riding area. These bumpouts connect to the fence adjacent to the nests and extend into the open riding area. Prior to 2010, only nests found within 75 feet of the Southern Exclosure fence were given a bumpout. Beginning in 2010, nests found within 100 feet of the Southern Exclosure fence bordering the open riding area received bumpouts. Nests inside the exclosure and more than 100 feet from the fence may also receive a bumpout if repeated disturbance from the open riding area is observed. Prior to 2012, nests found in the open riding area initially received an 82 foot radius circular single nest exclosure as per the previously existing protocol. It is our experience that these earlier identified minimums (75 feet and 82 feet) are not sufficient to adequately reduce disturbance from recreational activity and, in response to birds flushing from their nests, additional fence installation was often necessary to increase the size of the buffer.

In 2013, one least tern nest and one snowy plover nest were given bumpouts to increase the distance from the nest to the open riding area fence to a minimum of 100 feet. The least tern nest had all three eggs hatch and all three chicks reached fledge age. The snowy plover nest was abandoned, with wind suspected as the cause. There were no nests found in the open riding area in 2013.

For 2014, it is recommended to continue to install bumpouts for nests close to the Southern Exclosure fence to create a buffer of at least 100 feet between the nest and the open riding area. Nests in the open riding area should receive a single nest exclosure with a minimum radius of 100 feet. Nests will be monitored closely to assess the adequacy of protective fencing in reducing disturbance. If necessary, bumpouts or single nest exclosures may increase in size if disturbance to incubating birds is observed as a result of recreational activity. ODSVRA will continue to maintain a safe vehicle corridor adjacent to the north and east fence, any bumpouts, and single nest exclosures.

Continue to position a large section of the shoreline exclosure fence further east (inland) to provide a wider functional shoreline habitat

The shoreline west of the exclosure west fence is important snowy plover habitat for rearing chicks. Prior to 2011, the management practice has been to place the west fence as low as possible on the shoreline. This was to maximize the amount of nesting and potential brooding area inside the seasonal fence that is protected from coyotes. In 2011, two small experimental shoreline fence sections, located in 6 and 7 exclosures, were placed up to 100 feet further to the east and these areas appeared to have a broader and more functional shoreline when evaluated at the end of the season. In 2012 and 2013, the shoreline fence was moved 100 feet east for the southern half of 6 exclosure and for the majority of 7 exclosure (except for the 7.5 revegetation area) (Appendix C). The Southern Exclosure is seasonally open to off-highway vehicles during five months of the year between October and February. As a result of recreational activity during this time, the shoreline of the 6, 7, and 8 exclosures has almost no cover or topographic relief at the beginning of the breeding season and park staff distribute wood and wrack to provide some cover above and below the drift line. The shoreline is further altered with the installation of the west fence as it results in substantial deposition of fine wind-blown sand on the leeward (east) side of the fence. A fence set low on the shore can result in a very narrow swath of shore with cover (west of the fence) bordered by limited cover over the majority of a strip of habitat (approximately 100 to 180 feet wide) immediately east of the fence, with deposited sand burying any existing or introduced cover.

Moving the west fence 100 feet eastward improved shoreline habitat characteristics for chick-rearing by allowing for a wider area of shore with cover and wrack. There was more topography and cover created by increased debris, woodchips, and wrack as well as greater foraging opportunities with the increased area of habitat enhancement. There continued to be broad areas of mobile sand with little cover east of the west fence.

Adjusting the fence eastward allows for the following benefits to the overall management goals for snowy plover productivity:

1) allow access from the shoreline for monitoring staff to maintain a wider swath of shore with habitat enhancement materials (including wrack) throughout the breeding season;
2) reduced chance of high tides and surf washing up and removing a low-set fence and habitat enhancement material;
3) provide better conditions for pioneering plants to grow in a wider area between the high tide line and the west fence (wind-blown sand deposited leeward of the fence can adversely impact seedling survival);
4) may increase foraging opportunities for plovers;
5) may reduce vulnerability to predators by providing more space and cover for chicks; and
6) may reduce bouts of aggression between adults with broods by decreasing brood density and, therefore, may decrease the chance of chicks becoming separated from their brood or attacked by adults with other broods.

Data was compared for nests of 6 and 7 exclosures west of the west fence (shoreline) to nests within the exclosure fencing (inside exclosure). The following numbers exclude nests at the northern 6 exclosure shoreline and west of 7.5 revegetation area where the fence was not moved.

There was an increase in plover and tern nests on the shoreline in 2012 and 2013 compared to 2011, likely as a result of moving the west fence eastward. In 2012 and 2013, 14% and 13% of plover nests in 6 exclosure and 19% and 26% in 7 exclosure were on the shoreline, respectively; this compares to 12% and 5% in 2011. In 2013, 14% (8/56) of least tern nests in 6 and 7 exclosures were on the shoreline. This is similar to 2012 when all tern nests were in 6 and 7 exclosures with 16% (7/45) on the shoreline. No least tern nests were found on the shoreline for the eight-year period from 2005-11 when the shoreline portion of the exclosure was in a narrower configuration.
For known fate nests in 2013, the hatch rate for plover nests inside 6 and 7 exclosures was 82% compared to 68% for the shoreline. Six plover nests on the 6 and 7 exclosure shoreline failed, with losses attributed to abandoned post-term (1); abandoned, suspected due to wind (4); and cause unknown (1). The least tern hatch rate for known fate nests was 85% for nests inside the 6 and 7 exclosure and 100% for nests on the shoreline (of the total of eight shoreline nests, five could not be approached to determine fate because of the high density of nearby plover broods). In 2013, the overall snowy plover chick survival to fledging age (55%) was high and was comparable within all shoreline areas.

Moving the west fence eastward did not appear to move plover or tern nesting closer to the east fence or east of the exclosure into the open riding area. There was one nest found east of the exclosure in 2012 compared to two nests in 2011. No nests were found east of the exclosure in 2013. In 2012 and 2013, the number of bumpouts for nests found near the east fence has not increased compared to the previous two years. In 2012 and 2013 there were four and two nests, respectively, receiving a bumpout. This compares to two nests in 2010 and eight in 2011.

It is recommended for 2014 to repeat the shoreline configuration as was present in 2013, with a large portion of the 6 and 7 exclosure shoreline fence approximately 100 feet to the east of the typical shoreline fence location and continue to collect further information. The northern section of 6 exclosure would not be moved east to avoid potential impacts to nests on the shoreline from trespassers and to reduce the possibility of pushing nesting activity further to the east side and closer to the riding area in this narrow portion of north 6 exclosure. The shoreline fence should continue to be installed last (after all other fencing is installed) and as close to 1 March as possible to lessen the chance of storm-driven high surf damaging the fence.

Continue to enhance habitat in the Southern Exclosure by distributing natural materials, seed, and plants and increase efficiency with the help of maintenance staff and heavy equipment
Natural materials such as driftwood, woodchips, and wrack (surf-cast kelp) should be distributed in large amounts within the exclosures (including the shoreline) to enhance habitat features. Since 2002, wrack has been gathered by hand and placed in the exclosure. Approximately 252 cubic yards of wrack were distributed on the exclosure shoreline during the 2013 season as habitat enhancement. Greater efficiencies may be possible for this wrack distribution. Since 2008, OSDVRA monitoring staff has received assistance from available heavy equipment operators from park maintenance staff in loading woodchips to be distributed in the exclosure. A method using heavy equipment has not been found to collect and distribute large amounts of wrack from the open riding to the seasonal shoreline exclosure. Attempts in the past resulted in more sand than wrack being collected with the equipment compared to hand collection. In 2014, it is recommended that methods to better use heavy equipment for wrack collection should be further explored. The goal would be to have heavy equipment available throughout the season to assist in loading large piles of wrack collected in the open riding area, to then be distributed into the seasonal exclosure by permitted staff. This would increase staff efficiency and allow larger amounts of wrack to be dispersed on the shoreline, helping to maintain larger populations of invertebrate prey over a

broader area for snowy plover chicks, fledglings, and adults. Broader distribution of wrack also provides shelter from wind and cover from predators. The use of heavy equipment needs to be balanced with other operational needs in the park.

Wrack and woodchip additions could also occur during the winter or prior to 1 March if materials and staff levels allow. Wrack collected from the riding area was experimentally distributed in a few large piles at the beginning of the 2011-13 seasons in areas east of the shoreline fence. These piles persisted to the end of the season helping to create temporary hummocks within the exclosure and, in some cases, provided a favorable area for plants to grow. As time permits, it is recommended to continue to place large wrack piles in the winter or at the beginning of the season in the area where the seasonal exclosure will be located.

The addition of quick-growing annual dune vegetation should continue to be evaluated as habitat enhancement. Planting in early spring, with sufficient late rains, may allow enough time for plant growth to provide topographic features that could benefit plovers and terns. Seeding of areas in the Southern Exclosure with sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*), beach bur (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), and other on-site available seed is recommended to continue in 2014. Planting of sea rocket or other appropriate available container stock (grown on-site) in test plots with areas of added materials (e.g., woody debris, wrack) should also continue to be evaluated in 2014. The seeding and planting would occur as soon as possible after the fence is installed on 1 March. Seeding or planting may be attempted prior to the fence installation in order to take advantage of rain events and moist sand. The goal of this planting is to provide areas of scattered vegetation for cover and to encourage the development of small hummocks.

Continue to study the benefits of wrack addition to the Southern Exclosure shoreline and inoculation with wrack-associated invertebrates as a possible means to restore invertebrate species and biomass (these invertebrates are part of the prey base for snowy plover chicks, juveniles, and adults)

In 2007-11, Drs. Jenifer Dugan and Mark Page, researchers from the Marine Science Institute at the University of California Santa Barbara, examined the responses of invertebrate numbers and diversity in areas where wrack was added to the shoreline throughout the breeding season. In 2012, sampling (by Dr. Dugan) was limited to only the beginning and end of the closure period. In 2013, park staff performed one series of invertebrate sampling at the end of the season, comprised of 10 transects in the Southern Exclosure and three transects in North Oso Flaco (as a control). Samples were provided to Dr. Dugan to be examined in her lab and findings added to the data set. Results of surveys since 2007 indicate that the seven month seasonal closure (March through September) is not a sufficient period of time for invertebrates to effectively and naturally recover species diversity and abundance on the Southern Exclosure shoreline. Preliminary analysis suggests that inoculating a large number of wrack-associated invertebrates into wrack over a wide area of the exclosure shoreline appeared to increase the estimated abundance of talitrids. If funding levels allow, experimental examination of wrack and invertebrate manipulation on the Southern Exclosure shore should continue in the 2014 season with the goal of identifying potential means to enhance the diversity and abundance of invertebrate species that are natural prey for plovers. If more extensive surveys are not available, park staff intends to continue the end of season sampling and to add a beginning of season sampling.

Continue to look for an appropriate design to cover trash dumpsters

The predator management strategy at ODSVRA includes methods to discourage attracting predators to the site. The large trash dumpsters (22 feet long, 20 cubic yard capacity) located near marker post 2 attracts a large number of gulls landing on and foraging in the dumpsters. Four to six dumpsters are present during the busy summer months. In 2012, an experimental cover was designed for one dumpster with fence material enclosed in an approximate 12 foot high metal frame with heavy 7.5 inch wide plastic strips hanging from the front of the frame. This design was intended to prohibit gulls from landing on the

trash, allowed park visitors to easily discard their trash without lifting a lid, and allowed maintenance staff to lift the cover off and compact the trash with heavy equipment which is necessary before the dumpster can be pulled out and replaced each week. The cover was removed after periods of high winds quickly destroyed the plastic strips, making the cover ineffective. No covers were used in 2013. Daily surveys at the dumpster area resulted with the month of August having the highest daily average number of gulls (139) as well as the maximum number of gulls present at one time (445 on 16 August) (see section titled Predators and predator management on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.** for more details). It is recommended for 2014 to cover the trash dumpsters in the marker post 2 area with lids designed to exclude gulls and meet the needs of the ODSVRA staff and visitors.

Continue to maintain option to salvage and rescue eggs, chicks, juveniles, and adults under very limited circumstances

In some circumstances the abandonment of least tern or snowy plover eggs and chicks can be directly attributed to human disturbance. The option to salvage such eggs and chicks to be raised in captivity by an approved facility and released in the wild is useful. Beginning in 2003, a limited number of abandoned but likely viable snowy plover eggs or chicks from ODSVRA were brought into captivity. Chicks were raised in a manner that they did not imprint on humans and were released into the wild when fledged. All fledglings were color-banded to individual to facilitate collecting information on movements, survival, and future reproductive success. Captive care should only be used selectively and not as a substitute for responding to the primary causes of elevated egg or chick abandonment rates.

Ongoing management actions that will continue in 2014

The following are part of our ongoing management actions and monitoring procedures for which a specific recommendation is no longer necessary (see Monitoring and Management Actions section for more detail). Background information and justifications for these management actions have been discussed in detail in previous annual reports.

- Oso Flaco area protection will continue at the same monitoring and management level as set in 2005 (Site Description).
- The Arroyo Grande Creek protected area will be clearly delineated as a closed area around the Arroyo Grande Creek and lagoon by using posts and signs as practiced since 2006 (Site Description).
- Night vision equipment will continue to be used for monitoring the least tern night roost. The equipment has been used for monitoring since 2007.
- Continue monitoring least tern juveniles, night roost, and foraging activity at nearby freshwater lakes.
- Tern chick shelters will continue to be used.
- Continue option to use least tern chick fencing on the east side of the exclosure and a method to maintain the tern chick fencing will continue to be explored.
- Predator monitoring and management actions that have been in place since 2003 and 2004 will continue.
- Gull surveys will continue as they have since 2008.
- The Southern Exclosure protected area will include the use of increased fence height as practiced since 2006 and use of aprons as used since 2007 to improve the effectiveness of the perimeter fence in protecting the breeding terns and plovers.
- The Southern Exclosure and North Oso Flaco shoreline will continue to be protected, this includes maintaining the posts and rope at marker post 6 and Oso Flaco boardwalk intertidal zones to minimize trespass, which has been part of the management actions in these locations since 2008.
- Continue use of 10 foot by 10 foot single nest exclosures with net tops, circular exclosures with net tops, and mini-exclosures as needed to protect nests from avian predators. These small exclosures are not without risks to incubating adults and we will continue to closely monitor and evaluate their use.
- Surveys for plovers will continue during the nonbreeding season. These surveys have been conducted since the winter of 2009-10.
- Continue to document impacts and, when possible, reduce disturbance caused by low-flying aircraft over the Southern Exclosure and Oso Flaco.
- Continue to work to address water quality issues at Oso Flaco Lake.
- Efforts to retain skilled monitors will continue at ODSVRA.

2013 Recommendations and Comments of the Oceano Dunes SVRA Scientific Subcommittee re: Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern Monitoring and Management (December 17, 2013):

A. INTRODUCTION

The Oceano Dunes SVRA Scientific Subcommittee (SSC) members discussed the 2013 Oceano Dunes SVRA plover/tern nesting report (*Nesting of the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, San Luis Obispo County, California, 2013 Season*) at their December 2, 2013, meeting. Jonna Engel (California Coastal Commission) sat in for John Dixon, who gave his input prior to the call. Robert McMorran (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Doug George (PRBO Conservation Science), Amber Clark and Joanna Iwanicha (Oceano Dunes SVRA Environmental Scientists), and Aaron Gabbe (TRA Environmental Sciences) also participated. Bob Stafford, former CDFG representative, remained unable to participate.

A brief overview of the 2013 breeding season and the SSC's recommendations and comments on the 2013 Oceano Dunes SVRA plover/tern nesting report are provided in Section B of this report; background discussion is provided as needed. Section C lists the recommendations made by the SSC in December 2012 and describes whether each recommendation was implemented for the 2013 season.

B. 2013 SEASON OVERVIEW AND COMMENTS ON PLOVER/TERN REPORT

Please note that breeding data included in this report are for discussion purposes only and should be considered draft. Not all results have been finalized, and all data must be sourced via final reports prepared by those responsible for the monitoring.

Western Snowy Plover

No specific data for Washington or Oregon were available, although it appeared to have been a poor year. Results in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties were similar to last year. The fledge rate was 48.6%, but the number of fledglings produced per male was under 1.0.[1] There were 42 breeding adults, 59 nests, 24% nest hatch rate, and 35 hatched chicks resulting in 17 fledglings. All but one nest were located in Humboldt County. The report concludes RU2 remains dependent on immigration from outside the recovery unit to maintain its small population, and the likely primary cause of depressed productivity is predation by ravens (both plover eggs and chicks).

Monterey data are summarized here. A total of 482 nests were recorded, including 444 on the beaches and 38 on the salt ponds. Of the nests, 29.5% (n=142) were known to hatch, with 31.5% (n=140) of beach nests and 5.5% 9 (n=2) of salt pond nests hatching. The 114 recorded fledges represented a fledge rate of 27.0 – 29.2%. Common ravens were the most commonly identified predator.

The draft San Luis Obispo County/Santa Barbara breeding numbers were as follows:

[1] The Pacific Coast western snowy plover recovery plan estimates a rate of 1.0 fledglings produced per male is necessary to prevent population decline with 1.2 allowing for moderate population growth.

2013 Western Snowy Plover Nesting	Nests	Hatch Success (%)
San Luis Obispo County[2]	190	50
Guadalupe Dunes NWR	20	65
Guadalupe Restoration Site (Chevron)	45	44
Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve	50	42
VAFB	307	56
Coal Oil Point	65	46

Oceano Dunes SVRA had a continued high hatch rate (Table 11; all Oceano Dunes SVRA references to figures are from the Oceano Dunes SVRA 2013 plover/tern nesting report). Although there was a high rate of nest abandonment due to wind in general (Table 13), the data do not show clear correlation of wind speed to nest abandonment (Appendix E, Figure E.1). It is unknown whether peregrines or other predators disturbed plovers so they could not protect their nests in windy conditions. In considering whether wind barriers could be made for nests, it was noted that in some areas, e.g., Boneyard, sand moves so much mini exclosures do not work because eggs drift out of the exclosure. Plus, fencing can also increase sand drop on the leeward side of a fence, which is problematic in smaller exclosures. The SSC noted it would be interesting to see if a relationship exists between the substrate (e.g., gravel) and nest abandonment. With current SVRA staffing, it will likely take a graduate student to conduct reviews of substrate data and wind data in relation to breeding results.

In contrast to prior years at Oceano Dunes SVRA, a pronounced difference between the early and late season fledge rate did not occur (Figure 10). As seen in Figure 11, there was somewhat better success later in the season than is typical, which may have been due in part to: 1. luck. 2. having a better handle on predator activity via an experienced trapper and a timely start to predator control efforts. The Wildlife Services trapper was very experienced this year. It can make a big difference if the trapper starts by mid-February to early March. Ventana Wildlife Society does live capture and release. Ideally their trapper would start in mid-February, although that did not occur this past year. Fortunately the Ventana Wildlife Society trapper is able to travel immediately to release birds.

Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge staff expressed appreciation for predator control assistance from Oceano Dunes SVRA. Vandenberg continued to have problems with predators as well. Vandenberg had an approximately 50% fledge rate, and Coal Oil Point had at least two fledged chicks per male.

Data were not yet readily available for Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties. The overall count was a maximum of 145 concurrently active nests in 2013 and 203 concurrently

[2]Assumed to include, but may not be limited to, Estero Bluffs/Villa Creek, Morro Strand, and Morro Bay Sandspit.

active nests and broods. The number of concurrently active nests is 4% above the five-year average but 14% below that of 2012.

San Diego Bay non-military sites (Silver Strand State Beach, South San Diego Bay saltworks, Tijuana Estuary) were 7% above average in 2013 with a fledge rate 30% above average, which was 50% over last year. These non-military sites had 35 concurrently active western snowy plover nests, which is 7% above the 5-yr average but the same as 2012. However, fledgling production at those three sites was significantly higher with 62 fledglings in 2013 (1.11 fledglings per male), 30% above the five-year average, and 53% higher than 2012. It was the first time in a long time the area had produced more than one chick per male. A major gull-billed tern die off in May caused a reduction in predation, although predation remained an issue. The same predators mentioned below as limiting California least tern productivity were responsible for western snowy plover losses, but with snowy plovers hatching earlier than least terns, gull-billed terns affected western snowy plover chick survival. Of the 140 bands applied to snowy plover chicks at San Diego Bay sites this season, 18% (25 of 140) were recovered in regurgitated pellets within the gull-billed tern colony in South San Diego Bay saltworks. Over the previous four seasons, 8-13% had been recovered each season.

California Least Tern

Alameda may have had a decent year for California least tern reproduction – 292 nests with 84% hatching success. The early draft estimate is of a minimum 79-110 fledglings, with predation from northern harrier, red-tail hawk, American kestrel, and peregrine falcon.

At Oceano Dunes SVRA, the least tern fledge per pair number of at least one per pair has been one of the highest on a consistent basis (Tables 1 and 6). Oceano Dunes SVRA supports less than 1% of the California least tern breeding population yet has among the highest productivity, e.g., Table 7 shows the park's high productivity in comparison to other central/south central coast sites. Also of note, Boneyard has become much less important for least tern reproduction (Figure 4).

Vandenberg reported 15 nests, 19 fledges, and 1.27 juveniles per pair. No least tern nesting was known to occur at Rancho Guadalupe County Park or Coal Oil Point.

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (Orange County) was not very productive for least terns in 2013. Least terns bred at four different prepared sites within the reserve, and only one of the sites was productive. There was a total of 157 nests and an estimated 35-67 fledglings. The report estimated the number of breeding pairs at 157. Ravens, crows, and black-crowned night herons were removed along with one rat.

At non-military sites around San Diego Bay, there were 659 least tern nests this season, which is 4% over the 2009-2013 5-yr average but 3% below 2012. Pair numbers are not yet available. At least 152 fledglings were estimated produced, which is 28% higher than the 5-yr average and 58% higher than 2012. Chick mortality numbers were fairly high at some sites and suspected to be related to limited prey fish availability. Major mortality among gull-billed terns reduced their role in least tern losses this season, but predation was still the primary limiting factor, primarily from coyote, corvids, harrier, Cooper's hawk, kestrel, peregrine, and possibly large owls.

The SSC provided the following specific comments on the 2013 Oceano Dunes SVRA plover/tern nesting report. Items are listed in the order they appear in the report. Recommendations 13 and 14 are separate recommendations from the SSC that do not appear in the 2013 Oceano Dunes SVRA plover/tern nesting report.

1. Continue monitoring – Recommendation supported

No additional comments.

2. Continue banding least tern and snowy plover chicks – Recommendation supported

No additional comments.

3. Continue banding least tern chicks to individual – Recommendation supported

No additional comments.

4. Continue option to band adult snowy plovers – Recommendation supported

No additional comments, but see Recommendation 14 regarding banding least tern adults.

5. Continue use of motion detector cameras for nest monitoring – Recommendation supported

The permit covers using cameras on both species, but monitors have only been able to use them on plovers so far. They are conservative about which nests are photographed and only using cameras on exclosed nests so as not to attract predators. Although monitors is San Diego have not observed cameras disturbing least terns or snowy plovers, gull-billed terns tend to be more wary of objects placed near nests. As a result, biologists have made the cameras more cryptic by painting them the colors of the adjacent substrate, placing them next to or among objects or vegetation, placing them on ground rather than raised, minimizing their size, and placing them farther away. At Oceano Dunes SVRA, cameras are usually 2-3 meters from nests. Ronnie noted the cameras are designed for big game, so it has taken a while to have success with ground nesting birds, but they have developed a protocol. Cameras have proven useful with capturing predators.

6. Continue to use an anemometer with data logger to record daily wind speed and direction – Recommendation supported

No additional comments.

7. Continue to provide adequate-sized bumpouts and single nest exclosures to better protect least tern and snowy plover nests in or close to the open riding area – Recommendation supported

Typically the park just ensures a safe travel corridor. Although collisions with the exclosure fence can occur, Ronnie is not aware of specific bumpout collisions.

8. Continue to position a large section of the shoreline exclosure fence further east to provide a wider functional shoreline habitat – Recommendation supported

Gulls will likely continue to be a huge component of predation. The park is doing a good job covering the issue, but some gulls become specialists. Even with this measure, the fence results in sand deposition on the leeward (downwind) side of the fence creating a very broad strip of barren sand with minimal cover – it just moves it east.

9. Continue to enhance habitat in the Southern Exclosure by distributing natural materials, seed, and plants and increase efficiency with the help of maintenance staff and heavy equipment – Recommendation supported

Heavy equipment is required at times, such as to bring wood chips and possibly move large wrack piles.

10. Continue to study the benefits of wrack addition to the Southern Exclosure shoreline and inoculation with wrack-associated invertebrates as a possible means to restore invertebrate species and biomass (these invertebrates are part of the prey base for snowy plover chicks, juveniles, and adults) – Recommendation supported

No additional comments.

11. Continue to look for an appropriate design to cover trash dumpsters – Recommendation supported

The dumpster issue was not solved in 2013. The dumpsters should be covered. This is an important management tool to address trash that is subsidizing the predator population, although it is unclear how large the impact is. The dumpsters are almost two miles up the beach from the 6 exclosure.

12. Continue to maintain option to salvage and rescue eggs, chicks, juveniles, and adults under very limited circumstances – Recommendation supported

More eggs were salvaged than in prior years – monitors intervened on 13 occasions. Salvage is not the first choice but good to have as an option. All but one egg hatched, and almost all chicks were released (see Notes in the 2013 report). Reproductive success of these captive reared birds appears to be high. Given close monitoring, Oceano Dunes SVRA staff has the opportunity to spot nests or chicks in trouble. One of the Monterey Bay Aquarium chicks hatched this year returned to Oceano Dunes SVRA.

13. Conduct study evaluating alternative plover/tern habitat treatment strategies – Ongoing SSC recommendation

The 2013 plover/tern nesting report continues to note the compromised quality of the habitat available in the riding area at the start of the breeding season. The seven-month closure may not allow enough time for habitat to recover from OHV recreation, especially by the beginning of the breeding season. During the non-breeding season, snowy plovers continue to roost between Grand and Pier Avenues. The question remains as to whether a year-round closure in some configuration would best serve breeding plovers and terns. The park has never conducted a controlled experiment to determine whether year-round closure is beneficial. Although the park

implemented year-round closures of 11 and less than 4 acres in winters 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, respectively, the closures were not implemented in a manner that allowed biologists to draw conclusions as to whether such a closure is the optimal management approach.

Available data do not allow for a scientifically-based recommendation for or against a particular habitat management strategy. Although the year-round closure seemed to benefit breeding success, it is possible that enhancement measures implemented by Oceano Dunes SVRA could be just as effective. Because available data are inconclusive, the SSC recommends scientific evaluation of year-round closure. A study should be designed and implemented allowing scientific analysis of year-round closure in comparison to habitat left open during the non-breeding season. A formal proposal for this study should be made available for SSC and TRT review.

14. Consider option to capture previously banded adult least terns to determine their origin – New SSC recommendation

Based on the number of banded plover adults showing up, the SSC is interested in banding adult least terns. It could be valuable to know if least terns are coming in from elsewhere, which would affect how the site is managed. Ronnie is concerned it could cause nest abandonment, but others have had very low abandonment rates due to trapping. Trapping can be quick and relatively non-intrusive. Adults are caught via remote control trap after the eggs have been temporarily replaced with decoy eggs to avoid egg damage. It requires two visits for a total time of 10-40 minutes, and takes 1-20 minutes for adults to return. Trapping is done at 7-14 days incubation so birds are invested in the site and less likely to abandon. Biologists do not trap once the majority of nests have hatched.

The logistics at Oceano Dunes SVRA are very challenging since the 6 and 7 exclosures are very narrow. It is hard to get in and band due to nesting density, and there are concerns about chasing chicks into the riding and camping area. The presence of nesting plovers makes it more challenging. Ronnie will need to discuss this idea with his staff.

Regarding whether banded chicks will eventually return and give this data anyway, the origins of least terns that only have USFWS bands would be unknown. This effort would specifically targeting only those individuals. All chicks now get a metal band, but you cannot always see whether birds are banded due to distance. For a while at the SVRA, the other leg got a plastic band that wasn't well retained. Monitors could also try cameras.

Ultimately this information would help support the strong management at Oceano Dunes SVRA. Least terns from Oceano have been observed passing through San Diego, but not nesting. Ronnie has no records of his birds breeding at other sites, but it is likely nobody is looking for them. Other sites should be encouraged to look. Unfortunately, the current trend in the least tern community is to step away from banding, largely due to cost.

15. Recommendations of the two predator management report attachments

The 2013 Oceano Dunes SVRA plover/tern nesting report also contains as attachments the predator management reports prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services and the Ventana Wildlife Society. Both reports contain a brief list of recommendations, which are being implemented at Oceano Dunes SVRA as follows:

<u>USDA Wildlife Services</u>

- Public education on the restriction of feeding wildlife.

Implemented, mostly in campgrounds

- All garbage containers should have reinforced lids to prevent garbage consumption by wildlife.

Attempting; see Recommendation 11

- Maintain the height and strength of the perimeter fence surrounding the enclosures.

Done

- Continue to enforce the leash law for pets on the beach.

Done

- Remove dead animal carcasses from the beach to eliminate alternate food sources that serve as a lure to scavenging predators such as coyotes.

Done

- Remove known least tern and snowy plover predators, especially on the shoreline and in nesting areas, prior to predation.

Done

- Continue to allow the Wildlife Specialist to get permitted to enter areas where predators are located and where damage is occurring.

Done, with thanks to USFWS

Ventana Wildlife Society

- Continue the practice of depositing wood chips and other substrates, including manufactured tern shelters, into the 6, 7, and 8 exclosures early in the season and place wrack on the exclosure shoreline.

Done

- Keep the west fence in its present location and do not move it to the west where it would functionally create a narrower shoreline with less food and cover.

Done

- Maintain the current size of the fenced tern and plover nesting exclosures.

Done

- Purchase several bird-whistler devices and train several resource ecologists in their use for hazing avian predators.

Ronnie is looking into this measure.

C. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN 2012

In 2012 the SSC reviewed Oceano Dunes SVRA's 2012 plover/tern nesting report and made recommendations based upon that report (2012 Recommendations and Comments of the Oceano

Dunes SVRA Scientific Subcommittee re: Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern Monitoring and Management, January 7, 2013). This section lists those recommendations with a brief summary of specific SSC recommendations where given and describes whether each recommendation was implemented in 2013. Numbering is consistent with the January 2013 SSC report.

1. Continue monitoring—Recommendation supported

Implemented

2. Continue banding least tern and snowy plover chicks—Recommendation supported

Implemented

3. Continue banding least tern chicks to individual—Recommendation supported

Implemented

4. Continue option to band adult snowy plovers—Recommendation supported

Option retained but not necessary to implement

5. Continue use of motion detector cameras for nest monitoring—Recommendation supported

Implemented

6. Continue to use an anemometer with data logger to record wind speed and direction—Recommendation supported

Implemented

7. Continue to provide adequate-sized bumpouts and single nest exclosures to better protect least tern and snowy plover nests in or close to the open riding area—Recommendation supported

Implemented

8. Continue option to use least tern chick fencing on the east side of the exclosure—Recommendation supported

Option retained but not exercised other than very small scale mostly for fence maintenance. This option is not used where tern chicks are present and is largely only for fence maintenance.

9. Discontinue experiment of using four inch by four inch mesh fence size on the lower portion of small sections of the west exclosure fence—Recommendation supported

Implemented (discontinued)

This effort did not help with sand deposition.

10. Continue to position a large section of the shoreline exclosure fence further east to provide a wider functional shoreline habitat—Recommendation supported

Implemented

11. Continue to work to address water quality issues at Oso Flaco Lake—Recommendation supported

Implemented as feasible via documentation

Ronnie is tracking the issue. Oso Flaco Lake still has poor water quality. Fish tissue analysis shows banned pesticides.

12. Continue to enhance habitat in the Southern Exclosure by distributing natural materials, seed, and plants and increase efficiency with the help of maintenance staff and heavy equipment—Recommendation supported

Implemented

13. Continue to study the benefits of wrack addition to the Southern Exclosure shoreline and inoculation with wrack-associated invertebrates as a possible means to restore invertebrate species and biomass (these invertebrates are part of the prey base for snowy plover chicks, juveniles, and adults)—Recommendation supported

Implemented as feasible

The SSC wanted the report to provide additional data on whether talitrid populations are actually increasing through reproduction. Oceano Dunes SVRA could not provide further financial support of Dr. Dugan's research project but at least collected some samples for analysis.

14. Continue to look for an appropriate design to cover trash dumpsters—Recommendation supported

No solution identified

15. Continue to maintain option to salvage and rescue eggs, chicks, juveniles, and adults under very limited circumstances—Recommendation supported

Implemented

16. Conduct study evaluating alternative plover/tern habitat treatment strategies—Ongoing SSC recommendation

Not implemented

The park is having good results with the current management program; thus, the Superintendent did not agree to implement this recommendation for the 2013 season. The SSC continues to recommend that Oceano Dunes SVRA conduct a study for year-round exclosures in the 2014 season. See 13 in Section B, above.

APPENDIX D

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES LIST
TRA Environmental Sciences, Inc.

Special-Status Species with Potential to Occur within the Project Site

Common Name *Scientific Name*	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential to Occur On Site
Invertebrates			
Mimic tryonia (california brackishwater snail) *Tryonia imitator*	-	Inhabits coastal lagoons, estuaries and salt marshes, from Sonoma County south to San Diego County. Found only in permanently submerged areas in a variety of sediment types; able to withstand a wide range of salinities.	None. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Sandy beach tiger beetle *Cicindela hirticollis gravid*	-	Found in moist sand near the ocean, for example in swales behind dunes or upper beaches beyond normal high tides.	Low. No native dune vegetation within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no known occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Globose dune beetle *Coelus globosus*	-	Inhabits foredunes and sand hummocks immediately bordering the coast from Bodega Bay head to Ensenada, Baja California, and all of the Channel Islands except San Clemente Island.	Low. No native dune vegetation within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no known occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
White sand bear scarab beetle *Lichnanthe albipilosa*	-	Inhabits coastal sand dunes of San Luis Obispo County, in the vicinity of Dune Lakes. Found hovering close to the surface of the dunes near the lake, but some distance from the surf.	Low. No habitat within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no known occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Oso Flaco robber fly *Ablautus schlingeri*	-	Sand dunes	Low. No habitat within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Oso Flaco flightless moth *Areniscythris brachypteris*	-	Open, coastal sand dune slopes in San Luis Obispo County. Larvae live in tubes attached to buried, green parts of plants at the margin of the active, moving sand dunes.	Low. No on-site habitat exists due to ongoing disturbance and no occurrences of the species are known within the project site. Suitable habitat is adjacent to site.

Common Name *Scientific Name*	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential to Occur On Site
Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	-	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	Low. No roost sites are on or in close proximity to the project site.
Morro Bay blue butterfly *Plebejus icarioides moroensis*	-	Inhabits stabilized dunes and adjacent areas of coastal San Luis Obispo and NW Santa Barbara Counties. Larval food plant thought to be *Lupinus chamissonis*.	Low. No on-site habitat due to ongoing disturbance, but adjacent habitat combined with flight has potential to result in occurrence.
Fish			
Steelhead - south/central California coast DPS *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	FT, SSC	Fed listing refers to runs in coastal basins from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River.	Low. No habitat present on or adjacent to event site; access route passes through known movement habitat. CDPR manages stream crossings during rainy season.
Tidewater goby *Eucyclogobius newberryi*	FE, SSC	Brackish water habitats along the Calif. coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego Co. to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	Low. Population likely extirpated in 2008. No habitat present on or adjacent to site; access route passes near known habitat. CDPR manages stream crossings during rainy season.
Amphibians and Reptiles			
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	FT, SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to aestivation habitat.	Low. Habitat is adjacent to site, but all project activities will occur well away from the habitat.
Southwestern pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata pallida*	SSC	Permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in many habitat types; below 6,000 ft elev. Require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks. Need suitable nesting sites.	None. Habitat is adjacent to site but all project activities will occur well away from the habitat.

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
Coast horned lizard *Phrynosoma blainvilli*	SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	Low. No habitat within project site, no known occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
Silvery legless lizard *Anniella pulchra pulchra*	SSC	Loose soils of beach, chaparral, pine-oak woodland, and streamside growth of sycamores, cottonwoods, and oaks. Burrows in dune sand of beaches, washes, and loose soil near bases of slopes and near streams. Forages in leaf litter by day.	None. No habitat within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Birds			
Sharp-shinned hawk *Accipiter striatus*	-	Ponderosa pine, black oak, riparian deciduous, mixed conifer and Jeffrey pine habitats. Prefers riparian areas. North-facing slopes with plucking perches are critical requirements. Nests usually within 275 ft of water.	None. Mature trees are not present on site.
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	ST, SP	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depth of about 1 inch that does not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	None. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Western snowy plover *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*	FT, SSC	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly, or friable soils for nesting.	Moderate. Species uses portions of the park for nesting and foraging. A comprehensive plover/tern management plan minimizes impacts from park users (Appendix C).
California least tern *Sternula antillarum browni*	FE, SE, SP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas.	Moderate. Species uses portions of the park for nesting and foraging. A comprehensive plover/tern management plan minimizes impacts from park users (Appendix C).

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
California brown pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*	SP	California brown pelicans usually rest on water or inaccessible rocks (either offshore or on mainland), but also use mudflats, sandy beaches, wharfs, and jetties.	Breeding: None. There are currently no California brown pelican breeding colonies within the project area. Foraging: low. Brown pelicans become fairly common on the beaches throughout the project area after the breeding season from June through October.
Plants			
Marsh sandwort *Arenaria paludicola*	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Marshes and swamps. Found growing up through dense mats of *Typha*, *Juncus*, *Scirpus*, etc. in freshwater marsh. 10-170m.	None. No on-site habitat exists and no occurrences of the species are known within the project site.
La Graciosa thistle *Cirsium loncholepis*	FE, ST, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal dunes, brackish marshes, riparian scrub. Lake edges, riverbanks, other wetlands; often in dune areas. 5-185m.	None. Project area subject to routine disturbance; no habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site. The event areas are not included within the proposed critical habitat for this species.
Surf thistle *Cirsium rhothophilum*	ST, CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal bluff scrub. Open areas in central dune scrub; usually in coastal dunes. 3-60m.	None. Project area subject to routine disturbance; no habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
California saw-grass *Cladium californicum*	CRPR 2.2	Freshwater and alkali marshes, seeps. Freshwater or alkaline moist habitats. 60-600m.	None. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
Pismo clarkia *Clarkia speciosa* ssp. *Immaculata*	FE, CRPR 1b.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. On ancient sand dunes not far from the coast. Sandy soils, openings. 25-185m.	None. No habitat present on or adjacent to site.

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
Dune larkspur *Delphinium parryi* ssp. *blochmaniae*	CRPR 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal dunes (maritime). On rocky areas and dunes. 30-375m.	Low. Project area subject to routine disturbance; no habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
Beach spectaclepod *Dithyrea maritima*	ST, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Formerly more widespread in coastal habitats in so. Calif. Sea shores, on sand dunes, and sandy places near the shore. 3-50m.	Low. On-site habitat is highly degraded but occurrences of species have been recorded very near the project site.
Blochman's leafy daisy *Erigeron blochmaniae*	CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes. Sand dunes and hills. 3-185m.	Low. On-site habitat is highly degraded but occurrences of species have been recorded very near the project site.
Hoover's button-celery *Eryngium aristulatum* var. *Hooveri*	CRPR 1B.1	Vernal pools. Alkaline depressions, vernal pools, roadside ditches and other wet places near the coast. 5-45m.	None. No habitat present on or adjacent to site.
Nipomo Mesa lupine *Lupinus nipomensis*	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal dunes. Dry sandy flats, restricted to back dunes, assoc. with central dune scrub habitat. 10-50m.	Low. Project area subject to routine disturbance; no habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Crisp monardella *Monardella crispa*	CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Often on the borders of open, sand areas, usually adjacent to typical backdune scrub vegetation. 5-120m.	Low. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
San Luis Obispo monardella *Monardella frutescens*	CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Stabilized sand of the immediate coast. 10-100m.	Low. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
Gambel's water cress *Nasturtium gambelii*	FE, ST, CRPR 1B.1	Marshes and swamps. Freshwater and brackish marshes at the margins of lakes and along streams, in or just above the water level. 5-1305m.	None. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
Black-flowered figwort *Scrophularia atrata*	CRPR 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, riparian scrub. Sand, diatomaceous shales, and soils derived from other parent material; around swales and in sand dunes. 10-250m.	None. No habitat present on or adjacent to site.
San Bernardino aster *Symphyotrichum defoliatum*	CRPR 1B.2	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, grassland. Vernally mesic grassland or near ditches, streams, and springs; disturbed areas. 2-2040m.	Low. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
[1]Listing Status Key: FE – Federal Endangered FT – Federal Threatened FC – Federal Candidate SE – State Endangered ST – State Threatened SC – State Candidate CSSC – Calif. Species of Special Concern SFP – State Fully Protected		California Rare Plant Rank: CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. CRPR 2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in Calif. but common elsewhere. CRPR 3: More information about this plant needed (Review List). CRPR 4: Limited distribution (Watch List). CRPR Threat Code extensions and their meanings: .1 – Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat) .2 – Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened) .3 – Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known).	

Sources: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2014) and field observations and local knowledge of Oceano Dunes SVRA Resource Ecology personnel.